

OCTOBER 2023



PRODUCTIONS

Show Choir Products and News

ONE YEAR IN REFLECTION:
PRIOR PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER AT
THE COLLEGE OF
HOLY CROSS

SHOW CHOIR GOLD:
A HILARIOUS GUIDE
TO SHOW CHOIR
FUNDRAISING FOR
DIRECTORS AND
BOOSTERS

**HARMONY
IN MOTION:**
A SPECTACLE OF SOUND
AND MOVEMENT AT
THE SHOW CHOIR
COMPETITION



TAKING A PAUSE TO REFRESH

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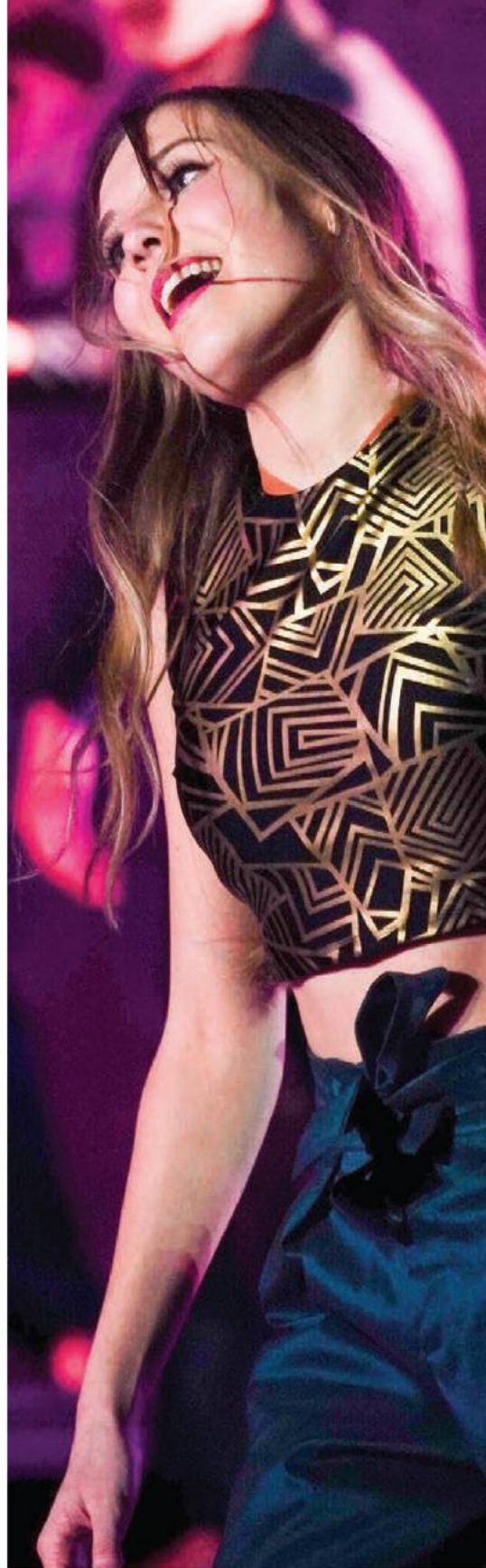
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8

TAKING A PAUSE TO REFRESH

On the heels of an undefeated 2021-2022 season, Tina Jacklin and her show choir at Dwight D. Eisenhower High School in Blue Island, Illinois made a surprising choice—to take themselves out of competition for a year. It turned out to be the most creative thing they could have done.

16

ONE YEAR IN REFLECTION: PRIOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT THE COLLEGE OF HOLY CROSS

When the Prior Performing Arts Center at Holy Cross, a state-of-the-art facility, opened its doors nearly one year ago for public tours, it was clear its arrival marked a new milestone for the arts at Holy Cross and surrounding community of Worcester, Massachusetts.



22

SHOW CHOIR GOLD: A HILARIOUS GUIDE TO SHOW CHOIR FUNDRAISING FOR DIRECTORS AND BOOSTERS

In the dazzling world of show choirs, where jazz hands meet high notes, and sequins are a must-have accessory, there's one thing that often hits a sour note—budgets.

26

HARMONY IN MOTION: A SPECTACLE OF SOUND AND MOVEMENT AT THE SHOW CHOIR COMPETITION

As the first notes of a melodic overture filled the auditorium, I could feel the excitement bubbling within me. It was a crisp Saturday morning, and I found myself surrounded by a kaleidoscope of vibrant costumes and eager faces.



editor's letter

Dear Show Choir Enthusiasts,

As the holiday season approaches, we find ourselves eagerly anticipating the joy, warmth, and of course, the harmonious melodies that define this festive time of year. It brings us immense pleasure to connect with directors and booster club officers who share our passion for the artistry and community that show choirs bring to life.

First and foremost, we at *Productions Magazine* want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for the dedication and tireless efforts you pour into your show choirs. Your commitment not only fosters incredible performances but also nurtures a sense of family and unity that is truly extraordinary.

As we enter the season of giving and celebration, we're thrilled to highlight the upcoming holiday concerts that promise to be nothing short of spectacular. The excitement is palpable as talented performers prepare to take the stage, bringing to life festive tunes and expert choreography.

The beauty of show choir lies not just in the music but in the shared moments that create lasting memories. Whether it's the joyous faces of your performers, the proud smiles of parents in the audience, or the camaraderie among booster club members, these experiences are the heart and soul of what we cherish about the show choir community.

In the spirit of the season, we invite you to immerse yourselves in the magic of upcoming performances. Witness the hard work and creativity that has gone into crafting these extraordinary shows. Let the music and the energy of the performers transport you to a world of holiday enchantment.

As we reflect on the year behind us, filled with challenges and triumphs, we are inspired by the resilience and passion that define the show choir community. Your dedication has shone brightly, and we are confident that the upcoming concerts will be a testament to the strength and spirit that unites us all.

Thank you for being an integral part of the show choir family. We look forward to sharing the joy of the holiday season with you through the incredible performances that lie ahead. May your holidays be filled with laughter, love, and melodies of show choir magic.

Wishing you a harmonious and festive season,

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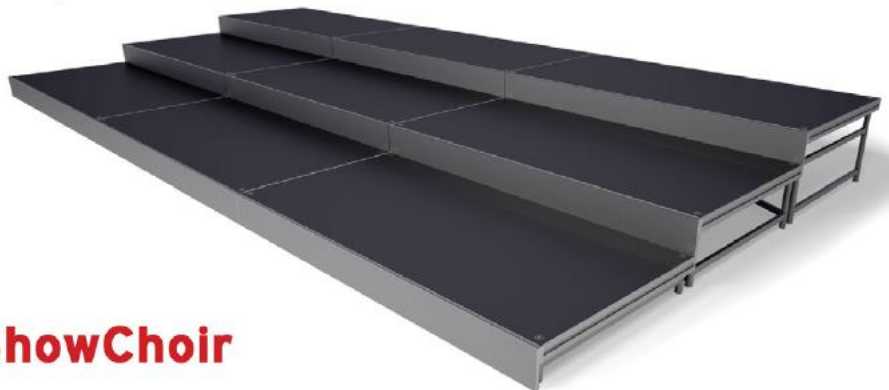


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TAKING A **PAUSE** TO **REFRESH**

BY LISA GIBBS, ED.D.

Blue Island, Illinois is not an island. It is a city with a population of around 22,500 located approximately 16 miles south of the Chicago Loop. According to the website blueisland.org, an 1834 article in the *Chicago Democrat* observed “the ridge, when viewed from a distance, appears standing in an azure mist of vapor, hence the appellation, Blue Island.” As the area developed in the mid 1800s, railroad tracks and a canal provided access for exporting local products such as bricks, beer, brooms, dental equipment and railroad cars. Today, the city’s chamber of commerce boasts “To know our city is to love it—rich history, beautiful architecture, the sights and sounds of industry—trains, barges, and our trademark bridges, abundant wildlife, fantastic parks, a thriving arts community ... and so much more.”



PHOTO BY ANGEL VELAZQUEZ / THE EISENHOWER EXPRESS SHOW CHOIR

Show choir is one of the arts offered at Dwight D. Eisenhower High School in Blue Island. Tina Jacklin has been directing the choirs at Eisenhower and competing with the show choir for twenty years.

Intrigued by their undefeated 2021-2022 season and an unexpected choice to not compete during the 2022-2023 season, I talked with Tina about her program.

■ Thank you so much for meeting with me! First of all, talk a bit about the show choir program at Eisenhower and in your district.

Thanks for inviting me! Our show choir has been all over the board. We've been in small division, then we were a large division for a long time. We've had some

pretty competitive years, not always one or two but in the finals. We had a pretty good run, then when covid hit, it came to a screeching halt, like many programs. We went from 180 or 190 in the program pretty consistently before covid down to 130 now. We are trying to build that back.

One thing that is unfortunate where we are is there are no show choirs at the middle-school level. Some of the middle schools don't have a choir program at all. Covid really broke that pipeline. Our middle schools were late to having music programs brought back. Within the last two years, a lot of them just didn't have enough kids to have choir.

■ You did have an undefeated season in 2021-2022. That is quite an accomplishment considering the

school year that was 2020-2021 and the fact that some of the middle schools don't have choir at all.

When we came back from covid I had a pretty good core of kids who still wanted to do show choir and compete and a ton of kids who had no idea what this was. Again, they didn't have it in middle school, and we weren't able to perform for them in middle school like we usually did. So it felt brand new to everybody besides that small core group of seniors and some juniors. We went in the small division and worked really hard. We had to be masked at every competition and it was a really tough year but I was very happy. It was huge for our school.

■ **You chose not to compete in the 2022-2023 season. What performance opportunity did you offer for the students?**

I did something totally different that we had never done before. I took sixty-two kids and we did a stage show that I constructed with my assistant, Victor Rodriguez. It was called *Enemy* and we based it on the musical *Six* with villains. I had some sets behind us, some dialogue in between songs. We had game show hosts introduce the three different villains. The villains gave their backstory in the songs, then we had group numbers. We asked "Who's the baddest villain of them all?" At the end the audience voted and we crowned the winner then went into the closer. It changed the trajectory of the closer depending on the vote.

It was longer than the usual show, almost twenty-six minutes versus eighteen. A lot of kids were involved. The competition aspect was taken out, but they did learn how to do show choir. I wanted them to experience that without the scariness and pressure of competing.

■ **Was it original music or pieces you pulled together?**

Mostly pieces we pulled together. Dan Scoville arranged it for us and he did put in some original music where needed for transitions. We used music from various

genres that had to be sewn together with a common theme. He has a really good creative vision for weaving all that together.

Samual Mulligan was our choreographer. He was so helpful from the beginning. The choreography for something like this couldn't just be stand alone numbers. Every villain had a highlight in the closer so some of their choreography was brought back. Samual was amazing!

This is supposed to be about creative arts and having a good time in the process. What do they love about show choir? They love to perform, they love characters, they love dancing. It takes a minute to get that kind of dance in your body and a lot of them come to me with no singing experience.

■ **I think that's really interesting to come back from covid, have a winning season, then choose to do something fresh instead of trying to repeat that success.**

We could have maybe had the same kind of season. I don't know how enjoyable that process would have been for the kids I had. The ones who had no experience vastly outnumbered the few who had competed. This is supposed to be about creative arts and having a good time in the process. What do they love about show choir? They love to perform, they love characters, they love dancing. It takes a minute to get that kind of dance in your body and a lot of them come to me with no singing experience. I wanted to capitalize on bringing some of the joy and getting the energy of show choir out there, because I feel like that's really what it's all about. Creating the show, making the connection with the audience and with one other. That was my number one focus, so how could I do that effectively? That's where it came from.

CONTINUED...



PHOTO BY ANGEL VELAZQUEZ / THE EISENHOWER EXPRESS SHOW CHOIR

It was a bit more of a forgiving environment for them to take chances. I think I needed the reset also. It had a positive effect on our musical that year. It had an effect in the classroom. I simply tried to give them some confidence to try new things. At the moment for us, it was what we needed.

How did the students respond?

The good thing is, it was very successful. They had fun. I had a meeting with them in the spring and asked if they would like to go back to competing in the 2023-2024 season or do another show with audience participation. I was really game for either. They said they were ready to compete and the older kids, the few that were left from a competitive group, were all about that.

We will be competing this year. I have forty-eight kids and two crew members, and they are really excited. We are doing a show where the kids represent two different beings and gender doesn't matter.

I've noticed a trend of putting together shows and costume pieces not based on gender. Tuxedos and dresses have their place depending on what it is you are doing. I like the shift away from that. It gives more options for expression.

I like it all ways—there's a place for all of it. Our show this year is based on the AI (artificial intelligence) presence and the human presence and how it all inter-works. Are you the AI representing or the human aspect of the show? It keeps changing and morphing through the show. I think it gives choreographers more freedom, too. I like the flexibility and I think the students do too.

Have you noticed a difference in the cohorts of students over the past 20 years?

We've always had a nice strong pocket that supports the arts. My district is supportive of the arts. There is a good twenty percent of the student population that does it all. I do feel they are more

stressed because the expectation keeps rising. There has been a push recently for more AP classes. My group this year is hard working with a great attitude. There's pure joy when they walk in. It did not feel like that a year or two ago. It was much more solemn, much quieter, more easily overwhelmed. Show choir is not something you take lightly. If you are going to compete it's a whole different ball game than just going somewhere and doing a dance and singing, and I think a lot of people misunderstand that. It's a different mindset, a different work ethic, all of that. We work with some of the most outgoing, well-organized students in the school. That's why I love the arts.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Productions* staff writer Lisa Gibbs earned her Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration in 2018. She is an advocate for arts, particularly dance, in education and for increasing the financial well-being of artists through financial education.



PHOTO BY ANGEL VELA ZQUEZ / THE EISENHOWER EXPRESS SHOW CHOIR

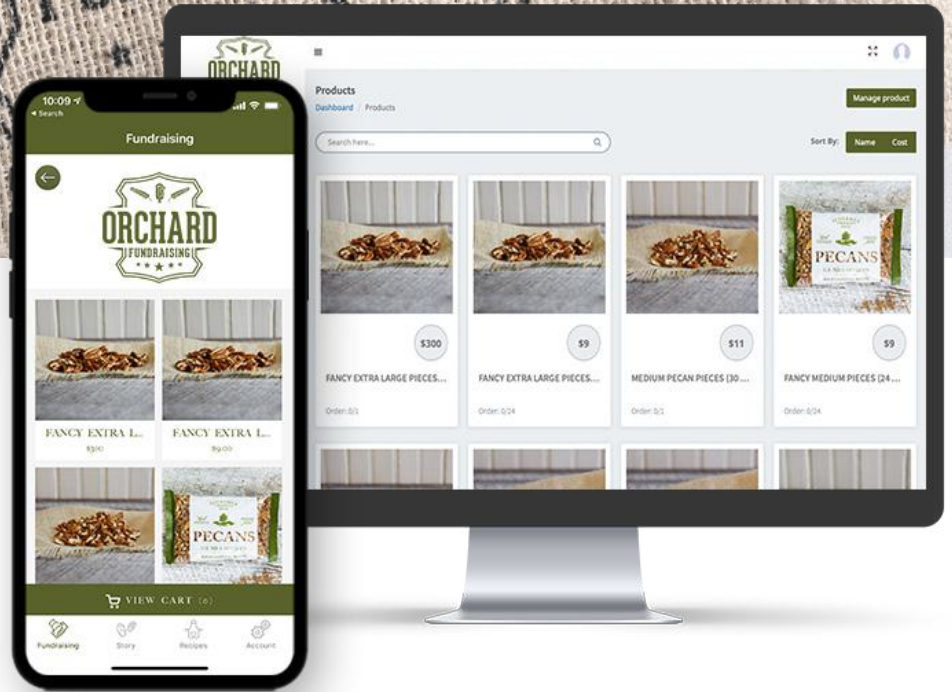
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GROWING SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING ENGAGEMENT

Schermer Pecans shares some exciting news with the readers of *Productions Magazine* about how their app can help you and your team with show choir fundraising.

Why Develop A New App?

Aron Wimberly from Schermer Pecans explains, "We wanted to develop an innovative platform for fundraisers. Orchard fundraising allows customers to sell Schermer Pecan products through this online platform. This platform creates a shareable link that makes sharing your fundraising information quick and easy. No need for brochures anymore, just share the link on your social media. Friends and family can use your link to purchase products and the funds go straight to the desired bank account."

Wimberly continues, "We've shared the idea with many different organizational groups who are looking for new ways to fundraise. Many organizational leaders are eager to learn about what is to come from this platform. We offer the ability to add their own products, which is even more exciting."

Easy and Intuitive

Orchard fundraising is built on simple and intuitive web and mobile app platforms, which allow your fundraising organizations to present, order, and track their shipments in real time. A mobile-responsive link is also available to share on all social media platforms to further their reach.

Fundraising administrators select from and set up specific products available for sale, along with setting the price per unit and minimum order requirements associated with the selected products. The administrator has ability to adjust pricing, view individual fundraiser activity, and track all orders in an easy to use web-based content management system.

Accounting Made Simple

Once processed, revenue collected is automatically sent to you electronically and the product owners at the same time. No more waiting to collect money, create reports, and send out checks.

Team Member Gamification

For each fundraiser, your organization has its own unique URL to send via text message, email, or share on their social media platforms. Team members have their own login where they can see their fundraising stats compared to other students, allowing for friendly competition.

Wrapping Up the Sales

Once minimum order levels are achieved, your fundraising organization and Orchard will receive a notification email stating the order is complete. The product is then shipped, and appropriate funds will be distributed to each organization.

Aron Wimberly can be reached at aron@schmerpecans.com or by calling 1.800.841.3403. Contact Orchard at info@orchardfundraising.com, call 833.850.8324, or visit www.orchardfundraising.com



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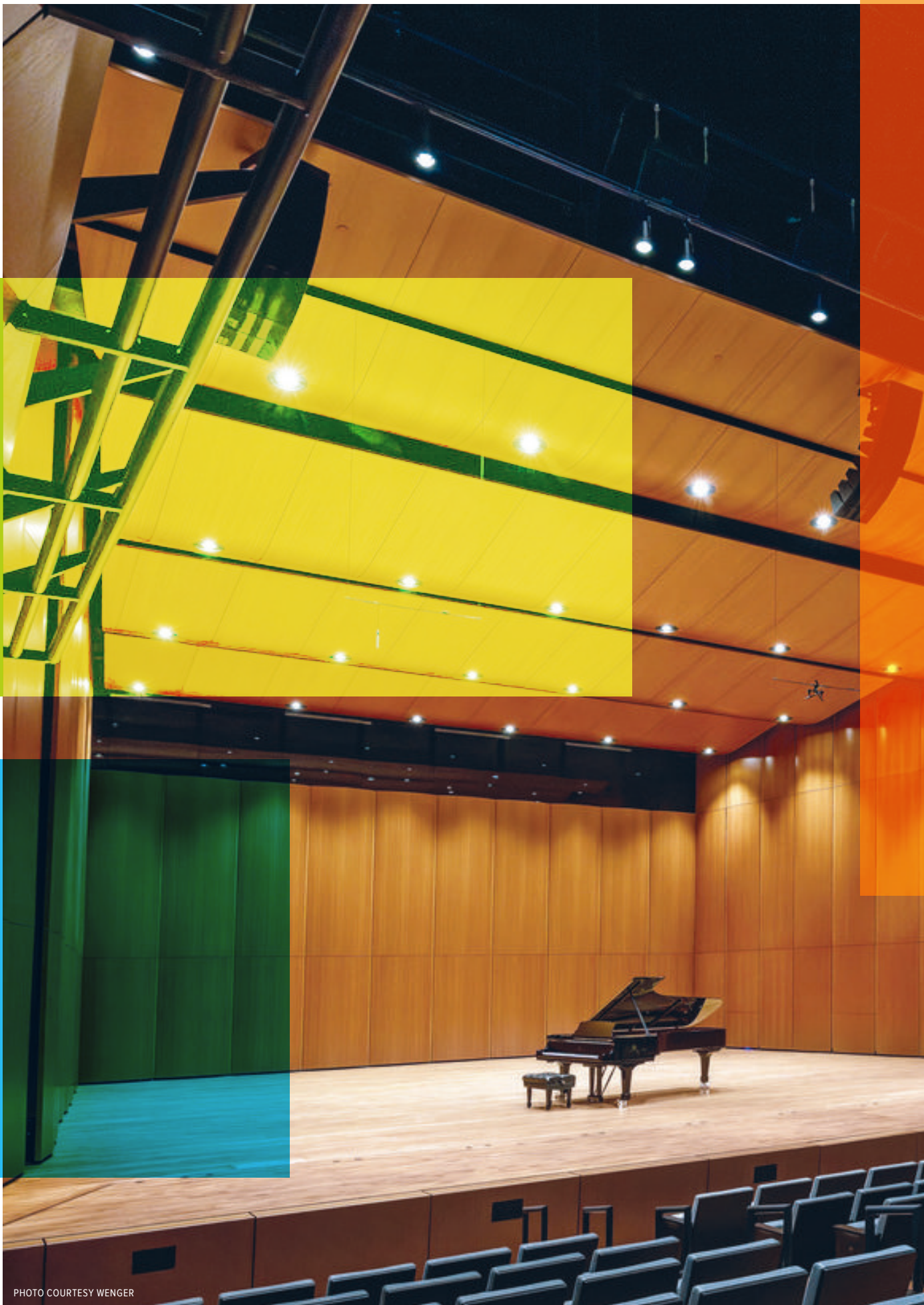
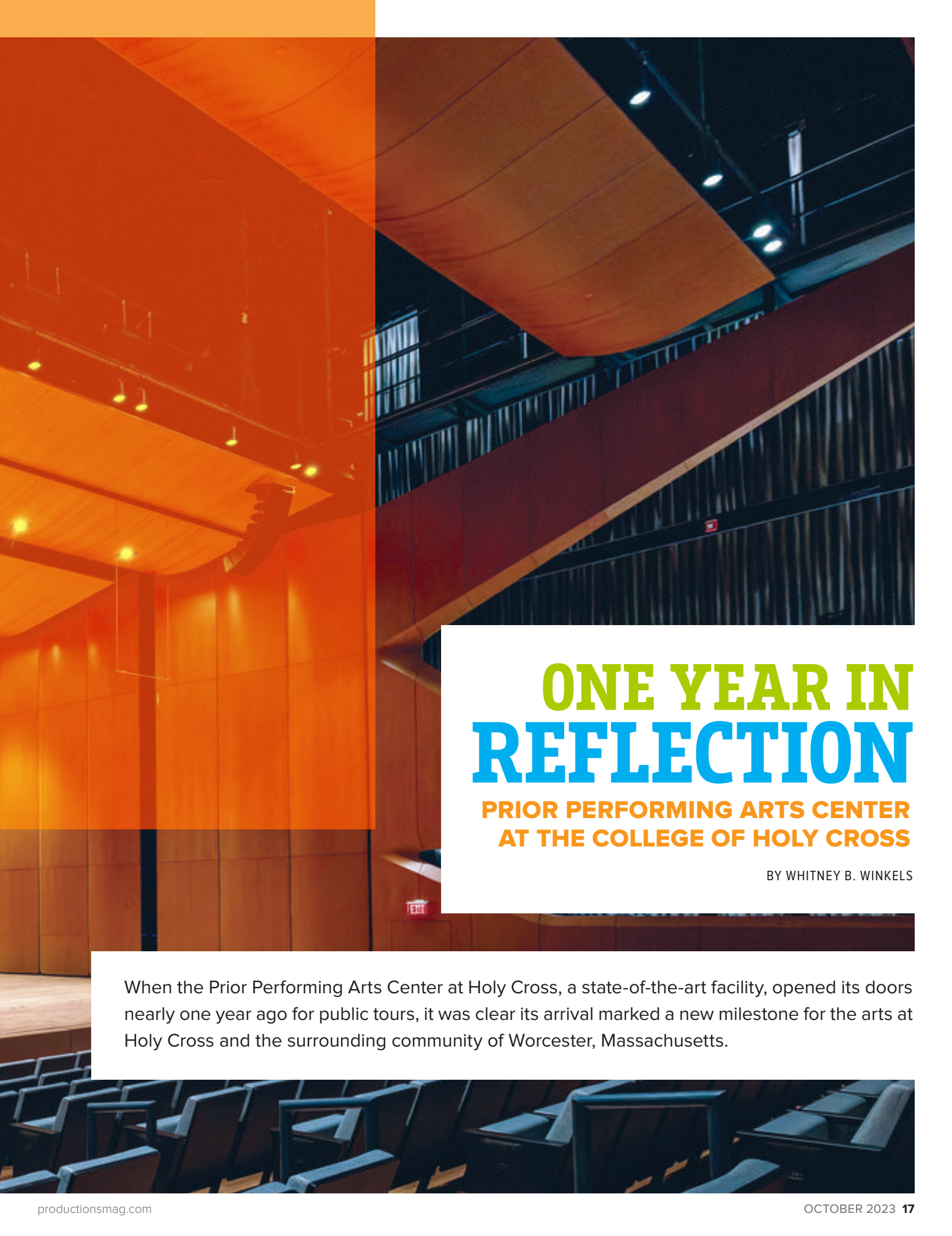


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ONE YEAR IN REFLECTION

**PRIOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AT THE COLLEGE OF HOLY CROSS**

BY WHITNEY B. WINKELS

When the Prior Performing Arts Center at Holy Cross, a state-of-the-art facility, opened its doors nearly one year ago for public tours, it was clear its arrival marked a new milestone for the arts at Holy Cross and the surrounding community of Worcester, Massachusetts.



PHOTO COURTESY WENGER

This impressive, 84,000-square-foot project—with a construction cost of \$110 million—boasts a concert hall, theatre, scene shop, rehearsal spaces, recording and costume design studios, and more.

The Prior Performing Arts Center was a collaborative effort between the College of the Holy Cross and a team of talented architects, designers, manufacturers, and consultants. The team included architect Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Dimeo Construction, Fisher Dachs Associates, Inc. theatre consultants, Nitsch Engineering, Robert Silman Associates, and Transsolar Klima Engineering, with

Wenger Corporation and J.R. Clancy providing and installing much of the advanced stage equipment required for seamless performances. The goal was to create a facility that would provide a dynamic and exceptionally versatile platform for students, faculty, and visiting artists to showcase their talents and engage with a range of art forms.

The Prior Performing Arts Center offers an extensive array of spaces and equipment designed to enable students to hone their talents, unleash their creativity, and engage in collaborative and innovative projects. With open access to these spaces and many resources to foster growth, Holy Cross distinguishes itself as an exceptional choice for aspiring student artists. In nearly every room at the Prior Performing Arts Center, you can find cutting-edge tools to enhance



sound quality, striking visuals, ease of use, and versatility to accommodate a wide range of uses for the space.

Supporting Incredible Performances

At the heart of the Prior Performing Arts Center is the Luth Concert Hall. This magnificent performance hall was designed to captivate audiences and provide an immersive experience. With its exceptional acoustics, cutting-edge audiovisual technology, and a seating capacity that accommodates a large audience, the hall sets the stage for a wide range of performances including theatre productions, musical concerts, dance recitals, and more.

A custom Diva® acoustical shell is a standout feature of this space. This beautiful, full-stage shell creates acoustics for optimum on-stage sound and projection to the audience. “With our Diva shell, the acoustics in Luth Concert Hall are amazing,” says Rosie Cruz, Director of Production at Holy Cross. “Touring artists remark how live the space is. Aesthetically, the shell is stunning—matching the hall’s interior and providing a beautiful feeling of being immersed, both visually and aurally.” With three on-stage clouds, sound does not get lost or trapped above the stage or in the loft but is sent toward the spectators. In the front of house, an additional cloud and ten transform banners were installed to elevate the overall sound quality and enhance projection toward the audience.

In addition to a beautiful look and superior sound quality, the shell also offers versatility and flexibility when it comes to set up and storage. “We can easily strike the shell in less than four hours,” Cruz says. “The towers are relatively easy to move and reconfigure, especially for their 20’ height, and they store in a compact 13’ x 7’ footprint.”

Products that Transform Spaces

Transform® motorized acoustical banners are used to enhance the acoustics of performance spaces. These motorized banners offer variable acoustic capabilities, allowing users to adjust sound absorption and reflection levels quickly. With adjustable spacing options, users can customize the distance between the banner and the wall, as well as the gap between fabric layers. In the Lovelette Ensemble Room, these versatile banners, integrated with a motion-control system for ease of use, help transform the space to meet the needs of each performance. The banners optimize the acoustics for each event, providing an enhanced experience for any rehearsal—or audience—as this technology allows the space to also be used for performances.

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PHOTO COURTESY WENGER



PHOTO COURTESY WENGER



PHOTO COURTESY WENGER

In the Alden Trust Performance Studio, primarily a rehearsal studio with a stunning view of the city of Worcester and the Blackstone Valley, track-and-drape systems provide versatility and flexibility for performers and stage designers. The track allows for smooth movement of drapes, enabling the room to be easily adapted to different staging requirements. Whether it's creating separate sections, concealing certain areas, or adapting acoustics, the track-and-drape system offers endless possibilities for customization.

Safe and Effective Motion Control

Other impressive additions to the Prior Performing Arts Center include a range of stage offerings that are designed to produce professional-level performances. A key factor in creating these performances is precise and controlled movement of stage elements. The underhung counterweight sets with FrontLoader™ arbors ensure efficient and accurate movement, while the

PowerAssist® hoist facilitates smooth lifting operations. To facilitate the movement of heavy stage equipment, the grid trap and hoisting beam were installed with a trolley, making backstage operations more manageable. Additionally, a fire-curtain system offers a crucial safety feature, providing protection in case of emergencies.

Control systems top off this suite of products to easily manage the complex technical aspects of the performance space. The installation includes two motorized control consoles (MCC) specifically designed for managing the banners and rigging. These consoles are conveniently mounted on the wall, offering intuitive control and precise handling of stage elements. “Our rigging systems—both motorized and counter-weight—are sleek and offer a visually captivating design,” Cruz says. “The technological advances for safety are impressive.” With the MCC consoles

Whether it’s creating separate sections, concealing certain areas, or adapting acoustics, the track-and-drape system offers endless possibilities for customization.

in place, performances and rehearsals can run smoothly, ensuring seamless operation and optimal control during every production.

All Systems Go

At the Prior Performing Arts Center, the design team worked diligently to ensure cutting-edge technology and equipment was utilized throughout the facility. From the acoustically superior shell to the adaptable track-and-drape system, the center has become a showplace for how high-tech, advanced products available for performing-arts venues today—combined with the talent and creativity students and other artists bring to the

stage—can raise the bar for performing arts on campus.

“The collaboration between all of the design team members for this project truly helped create a theatre system that ‘sings’ for us,” Cruz quips.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Whitney B. Winkels is the Senior Marketing Communications Manager for Wenger Corporation. She joined Wenger Corporation in 2016 as the Performing Arts Marketing Manager and helped lead marketing and communications efforts for the Wenger Corporation’s Wenger and J.R. Clancy brands. As the Senior Marketing Communications Manager, she oversees Wenger’s Music Education, Performing Arts, and Athletics marketing initiatives.

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SHOW CHOIR Gold

A HILARIOUS GUIDE
TO SHOW CHOIR FUNDRAISING
FOR DIRECTORS AND BOOSTERS

TURNING NOTE-WORTHY PERFORMANCES INTO CASH-WORTHY FUNDS

BY ED BAUER

In the dazzling world of show choirs, where jazz hands meet high notes, and sequins are a must-have accessory, there's one thing that often hits a sour note—budgets. But fear not, oh guardians of the glittery realm! Fundraising need not be a chorus of sighs and stressed-out jazz squares. This is your backstage pass to turning financial hurdles into high-energy harmonies, peppered with a dash of humor and a sprinkle of showbiz magic.

ACT 1

THE FUNDRAISING SYMPHONY

■ SCENE 1: The Great Bake Sale

Extravaganza

Picture this: A battalion of apron-clad parents, armed with spatulas and sprinkles, descending upon the school cafeteria. Welcome to the Great Bake Sale Extravaganza! Not only will it satisfy the sweet cravings of the entire school, but it's also a golden opportunity for parents to showcase their culinary skills. From show-stopping cupcakes to ballad-inspired brownies, let the baking battles begin!

• **Pro Tip:** *Enlist local celebrities to judge the bake-off, adding a pinch of glamour to your sugary soirée.*

■ SCENE 2: Car Wash Capers

What's wet, wild, and wonderful for fundraising? A car wash, of course! Mobilize your choir members armed with sponges and buckets and turn the school parking lot into a soapy spectacle. Offer free vocal

performances to entertain waiting drivers—turning mundane errands into memorable moments. Just pray your alto section doesn't break any windshields with those high notes!

• **Pro Tip:** *Advertise as a “Singing Car Wash”—because nothing says cleanliness like a serenade.*

ACT 2

THE SOCIAL MEDIA SYMPHONY

■ SCENE 1: Hashtag Hijinks

Give your fundraising efforts a digital spin with a social-media challenge. Create a catchy, choir-related hashtag and encourage supporters to share their favorite show choir moments. For every post, pledge a note—musical or monetary, depending on the generosity of your supporters. Social media can turn your choir's journey into a viral sensation!

• **Pro Tip:** *Add a dash of friendly competition by awarding the most creative posts with a backstage pass to your next concert.*

■ SCENE 2: Virtual Serenades

In an age where Zoom meetings are the norm, why not serenade your supporters virtually? Host a virtual concert where donors can request songs in exchange for contributions. Imagine the thrill of hearing your choir belt out “Bohemian Rhapsody” in a video call! It's a win-win—supporters get personalized performances, and your choir gets the funds it needs.

• **Pro Tip:** *Create tiers of donations with increasing perks, like personalized shout-outs or exclusive virtual meet-and-greets with the choir members.*

ACT 3

THE GUERRILLA MARKETING BALLET

■ SCENE 1: Flash Mob Frenzy

Turn the ordinary into extraordinary with a surprise flash mob. Choreograph a jaw-dropping routine and perform it in unexpected places—the mall, local parks, or even the grocery store. The element

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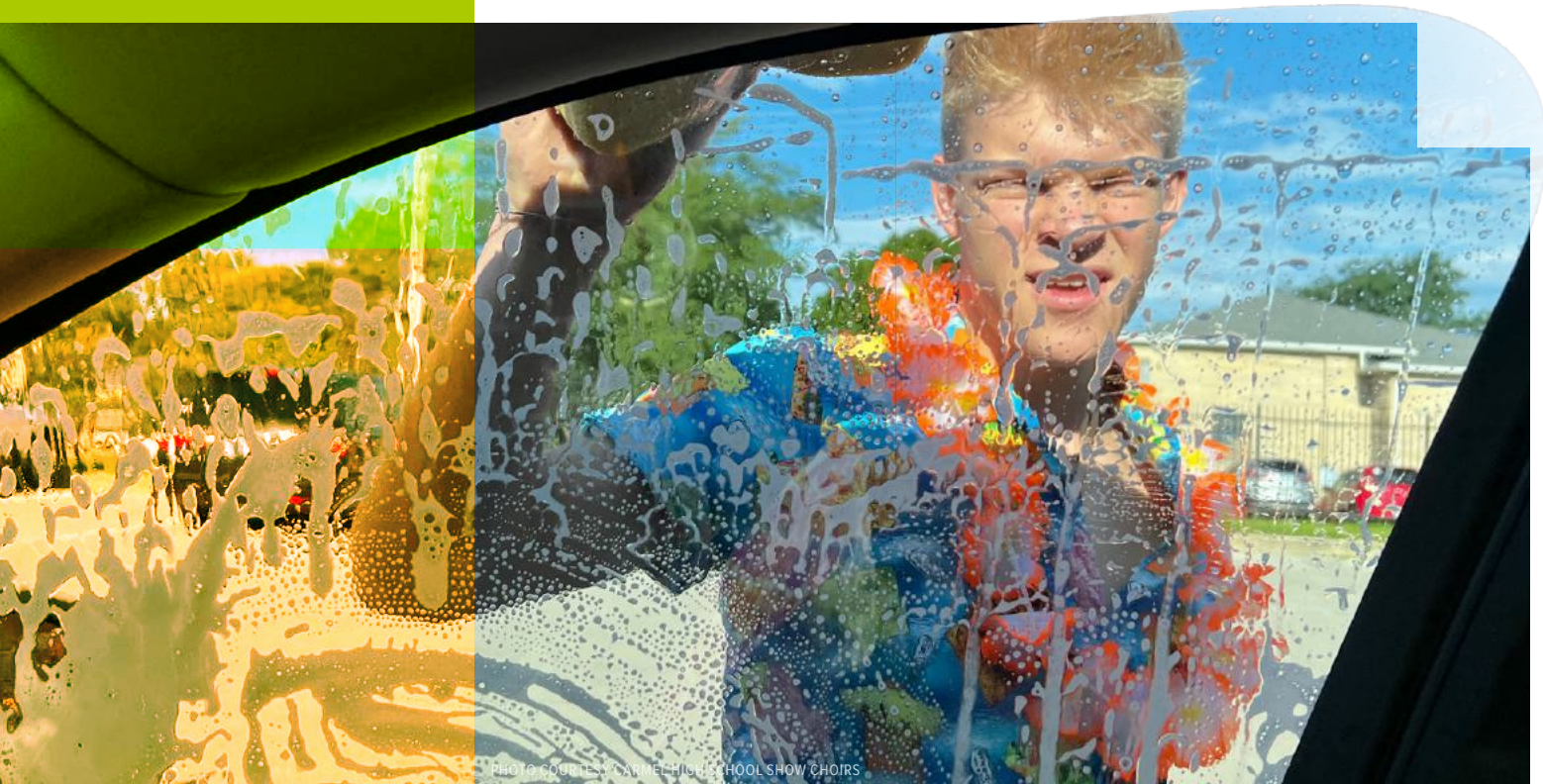


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of surprise will not only captivate your audience but also attract attention to your fundraising cause.

• **Pro Tip:** *Capture the flash mob on video and share it on social media to create buzz and encourage online donations.*

■ **SCENE 2: Singing Telegram Shenanigans**

Who says singing telegrams are old-fashioned? Embrace the retro charm and send your choir members out as surprise singing telegrams for special occasions. Birthdays, anniversaries, or even just a random Tuesday—the joy of a surprise song will leave a lasting impression. Bonus points if you can convince the local pizza joint to let your choir deliver pizzas while belting out show tunes.

• **Pro Tip:** *Partner with local businesses for cross-promotion—they get a unique selling point, and you get a cut of the profits.*

ACT 4
THE MERCHANDISING MAESTRO

■ **SCENE 1: Pasta Palooza**

What's better than a choir singing in perfect harmony? A choir that can also cook up a storm! Introduce a pasta fundraiser

where supporters can purchase gourmet pasta packages. Collaborate with a local pasta artisan for a custom blend, perhaps a “Harmony Fusilli” or a “Showstopper Spaghetti.” Package them with a recipe book featuring the favorite pasta dishes of your choir members, turning your fundraiser into a feast for both the ears and the taste buds.

• **Pro Tip:** *Host a cooking class featuring your choir members as chefs.*

■ **SCENE 2: Coffee Concerto**

For those who can't survive a day without a cup of Joe, a coffee fundraiser is the perfect pick-me-up! Partner with a local coffee roaster to create a custom blend with your school's choir name in it. Sell individual bags or gift sets that include a choir mug and a ticket to a performance. Because who wouldn't want to start their day with a musical morning brew?

• **Pro Tip:** *Set up a pop-up coffee stand at local events or near busy shopping centers to attract caffeine enthusiasts.*

■ **SCENE 3: Pecan Pizzazz**

Go nuts for fundraising with a pecan sale! Partner with local orchards to source fresh pecans and package them in stylish,

choir-branded containers. You can offer plain pecans, chocolate-covered delights, or even spice things up with a show choir signature seasoning. It's a nutty way to raise funds while giving your supporters a taste of something special.

• **Pro Tip:** Create a pecan-themed choir performance, complete with Nutcracker choreography—a delightful blend of music and munchies.

■ SCENE 4: Popcorn Crescendo

Turn the classic popcorn sale into a symphony of flavors. From sweet caramel to savory cheese, offer a variety of popcorn flavors in eye-catching, choir-themed tins. Add a musical twist by including download codes for exclusive choir performances with each purchase. It's a popcorn party that not only satisfies cravings but also hits all the right notes.

• **Pro Tip:** Host a movie night featuring classic musicals and offer your custom popcorn as the star of the show.

ACT 5 THE GRAND FINALE GALA

■ SCENE 1: Fundraising Gala Extravaganza

Cap off your fundraising efforts with a grand gala. Turn the spotlight on your show choir with a glitzy evening of entertainment, complete with dinner, dancing, and dazzling performances. Sell tickets to parents, friends, and local businesses, and watch the funds roll in. Don't forget to auction off unique experiences, like a private serenade or a chance to conduct the choir for a song.

• **Pro Tip:** Encourage attendees to dress in showbiz glamour—sequins and feather boas are mandatory!

Conclusion: A Standing Ovation for Show Choir Success!

In the grand finale of your fundraising symphony, take a bow, directors, and boosters! Through laughter, creativity, and a touch of showbiz pizzazz, you've

transformed financial challenges into opportunities for your show choir to shine. The stage is set, the funds are in, and your choir is ready to hit the high notes with a dazzling performance that'll leave the audience applauding encore after encore.

So, directors and boosters, keep the laughter ringing and the sequins sparkling as you lead your show choir to financial triumph. Break a leg, or in showbiz terms, break a stiletto heel! The show must go on—and so must the fundraising!

Disclaimer: No sequins were harmed in the making of this fundraising guide. Laughter, however, was actively encouraged.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ed Bauer has been in publishing for over twenty years. He was introduced to Show Choir by his daughter and he is forever grateful to her for this wonderful gift.

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Harmony IN MOTION

A SPECTACLE OF SOUND AND MOVEMENT AT THE SHOW CHOIR COMPETITION

BY ED BAUER

As the first notes of a melodic overture filled the auditorium, I could feel the excitement bubbling within me. It was a crisp Saturday morning, and I found myself surrounded by a kaleidoscope of vibrant costumes and eager faces. I was about to embark on a journey into the dazzling world of show choir competitions, where music, sets, lighting, special effects, and dancing would come together in a harmonious symphony of entertainment.

CONTINUED...

The anticipation hung thick in the air as I made my way through the bustling crowd. The venue was alive with energy, a palpable mix of nerves and enthusiasm. It was my first foray into the show choir scene, and I couldn't help but marvel at the sheer dedication and passion radiating from the performers and their supporters.

As I settled into my seat, the stage before me transformed into a canvas of possibilities. The lights dimmed, and a hush fell over the audience, signaling the beginning of a journey that would blend music and movement into an art form that transcended the ordinary.

The first group took the stage, and the magic unfolded before my eyes. The music, a carefully curated medley of popular tunes, resonated through the auditorium. It was more than just singing; it was a vocal tapestry; each note meticulously crafted and interwoven with the others. The harmonies were impeccable, a testament to the countless hours of rehearsal and fine-tuning.

But it wasn't just about the music; it was a multisensory experience. The stage, adorned with elaborate sets, transported the audience to different worlds with each performance. From the bustling streets of a retro cityscape to the ethereal glow of a mystical forest, the sets were a testament to the creativity and ingenuity of the show choir teams.

The lighting, too, played a crucial role in elevating the performances. As the tempo of the music shifted, so did the colors bathing the stage. From warm, golden hues during heartfelt ballads to dynamic flashes of vibrant lights during upbeat numbers, the lighting design enhanced the emotional impact of each performance.

CONTINUED...

In between performances, I couldn't help but strike up conversations with fellow audience members. There was a shared sense of awe and appreciation for the artistry on display. It was a community brought together by a love for music and performance, and the camaraderie was palpable.

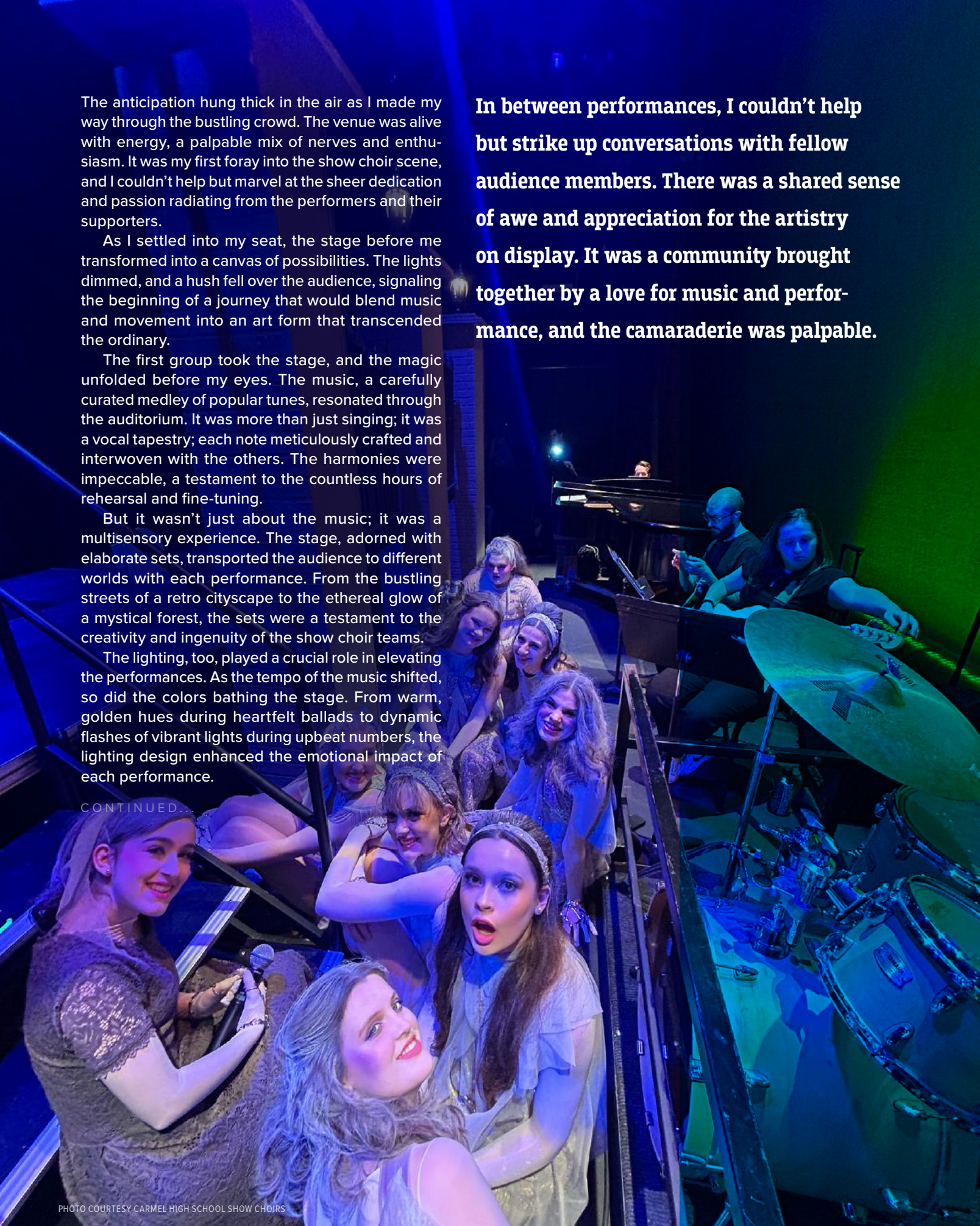


PHOTO COURTESY CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIRS

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PHOTO COURTESY CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIRS

As one group gracefully exited the stage, the next entered with a burst of energy. This was more than a competition; it was a celebration of artistry. The special effects kicked in, transforming the stage into a spectacle that transcended the boundaries of a typical musical performance.

Smoke billowed, confetti rained down, and LED screens illuminated with dynamic visuals, adding an extra layer of excitement to the already electric atmosphere. It was a sensory overload, and yet, every element seemed to come together seamlessly, creating a feast for the eyes and ears.

The choreography was another highlight of the show choir competition. The dancers moved with a precision that bordered on perfection, their bodies moving in sync with the music. It wasn't just about executing dance moves; it was about storytelling through movement. Every step, every gesture, conveyed a narrative that complemented the music and enhanced the overall performance.

In between performances, I couldn't help but strike up conversations with fellow audience members. There was a shared sense of awe and appreciation for the artistry on display. It was a community brought together by a love for music and performance, and the camaraderie was palpable.

As the day unfolded, I found myself drawn into the ebb and flow of emotions on stage. The performances ranged from joyous and exuberant to poignant and introspective. It was a rollercoaster of feelings, and I marveled at the ability of the show choirs to evoke such a wide range of emotions through their art.

As the final group took the stage for their grand finale, I couldn't help but reflect on the sheer magnitude of talent and effort that went into each performance. The show choir competition was more than a contest; it was a celebration of creativity, teamwork, and the power of music to move the soul.

In the closing moments of the competition, the applause

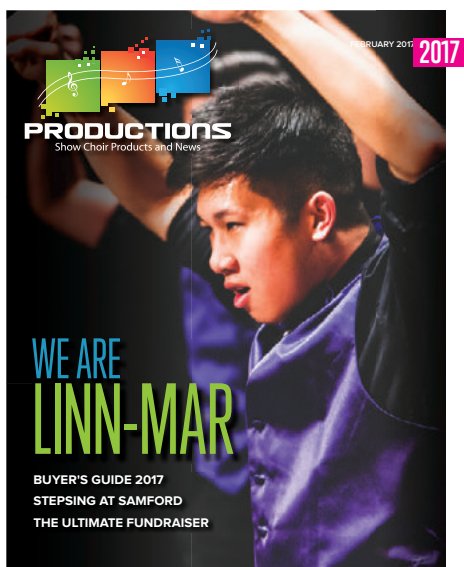
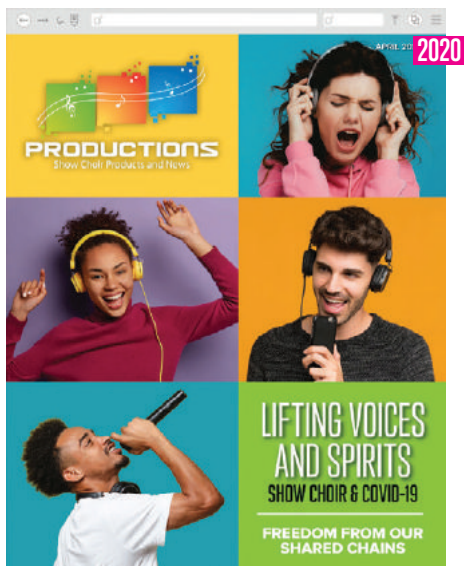
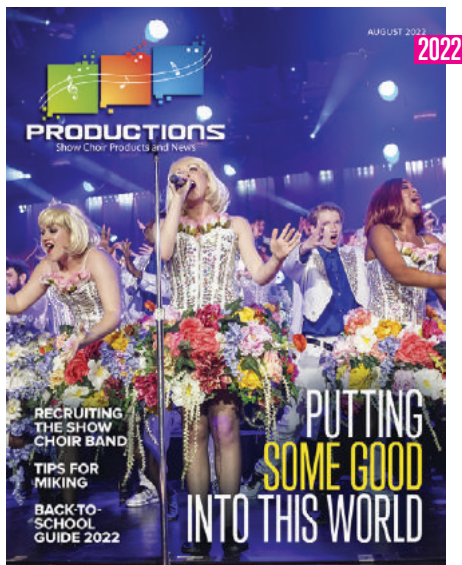
echoed through the auditorium, a thunderous acknowledgment of the hard work and dedication exhibited by the performers. Trophies were awarded, but it was clear that, in this community, the true victory lay in the shared experience of creating something beautiful and memorable.

As I stepped out into the cool evening air, the melodies of the day lingered in my mind. The show choir competition had been a sensory journey, a symphony of sight and sound that left an indelible mark on my appreciation for the performing arts. It was a reminder that, in the hands of passionate and talented individuals, music could be more than just notes on a page; it could be a transformative experience that brought people together in a harmonious celebration of the human spirit.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ed Bauer has been in publishing for over twenty years. He was introduced to Show Choir by his daughter and he is forever grateful to her for this wonderful gift.

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