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Folk & World concert rewards dedication

By Ava Ryan reporter

The choir showed off their performance abilities at the Folk & World choir concert.

The program included songs in various languages.

"In Revery, which is a beginner choir, we sang different cultural and jazz songs, including 'Too Darn Hot' and 'Ose Shalom,' which are both my favorite songs," freshman Grace Gabbe said.

Senior Alissa Emkes explained the demands on Rhapsody.

"In Rhapsody, which is an advanced chamber choir, we sang all sorts of different languages and cultures, like my favorite, 'Bring Me Little Water Silvy,'" she said.

The time leading up to the concert involved quite a bit of practice.

"The couple months we have spent

Chrisman said.

The highlights of the choir performance could have been different for each person.

"The most rewarding part of the choir concert is the idea of being able to perform beautiful songs for so many people who are so happy to hear us sing," Grabbe said.

This concert marked the first of the year, but some seniors saw it as the beginning of the end.

"Choir has been a bittersweet experience because Rhapsody has been preparing some amazing songs for this concert that are great folk and world music. It is also crazy and quite sad to think that this is my last first concert ever with me being a senior. It really puts in perspective on how fast time is moving," Emkes said.

Self-doubt can be something many deal with when performing for others, but having a good support system helps.

"The most rewarding experience for me is to know that if I feel like I did not perform my best, I have other people in the choir that will uplift me; they are also the people I will be able to talk to about choir-related topics," Emkes said.



Choir members celebrate a successful Folk & World choir concert. The choir spent the first quarter of the year preparing for the concert that included singing in various languages. Abigail Wilcox photos

Winterization strengthens bonds with community

By Norah Wallischeck news editor

Service is more than just work. Service involves making a connection, building relationships and giving back to those in need.

Winterization is a volunteer opportunity for students and staff to help local senior citizens winterize their homes. Winterization will take place on Nov. 16.

"We go out, and we rake leaves, clean gutters, trim bushes and do whatever the senior citizens need to help prepare their home for the winter. It is a volunteer opportunity where anybody can come that is a Greenwood student at the high school or staff or teacher, and we will provide free breakfast and free lunch for them," Mrs. Laura Stadtfeld, coordinator, said.

The PEER class is in charge of planning Winterization, and they have been working to ensure GHS is able to provide services to those in need.

"Our PEER class is the one that organizes this. They split into six groups that actually organize the day. They have already been out talking to homeowners and assessing homes. We have been calling restaurants to try to get food for our breakfast and lunches, and we have designed the t-shirts already. There is a lot of stuff in process now," Mrs. Stadtfeld said.

Most volunteers do not mind the work and enjoy helping senior citizens while creating relationships and good memories with their friends.

"What I like about Winterization is how

you team up students with staff or adult leaders because I think you really get to know the student out of the classroom better than in



the classroom. You have two hours of nothing but work, and you just build a relationship. A lot of students I have in class do not do Winterization, so I meet students in maybe physics or chemistry so I get to build a new relationship with them," Mr. Allan Figy, industrial technology teacher, said.

The senior citizens are grateful for the help that is provided to them, even in tough weather conditions.

"I think the fact that even on the worst

days, like if it is snowing or if it is sleeting, the kids will still show up to help people and those senior citizens give us endless phone calls thanking us. Some even say they would not even be able to keep their homes if it was not for our program," Mrs. Stadtfeld said.

Even without hot chocolate, students still were able to make good memories and get the most out of volunteering.

"I remember my sophomore year Winterization. It was freezing, and we were all so cold. Everyone else was talking about how they had hot chocolate and cookies from their winterization houses, but nobody gave us anything. Then Mrs. Smithy let us bundle up and get warm in her car, and it was a core memory. It was really nice," senior Joelle Young said.

Winterization with friends is fun, but some also realize the importance of it and how big of a need there is for Winterization.

"There is such a need to do Winterization because there are so many people who are unable to do the tasks we see as simple, such as raking leaves," junior Ameera Hooks said.

Sign-ups and permission slips for Winterization are available in English classrooms, around the school and at lunch for students to take. Some might be surprised at how much of an impact their help can make, even if it only impacts them individually.

"You are always going to find people who have less than you, and you cannot outgive. Whenever you give, you will always get more back," Mr. Figy said.