



"A Desire to Keep Singing"

Cypress Woods High School Choir, founded in 2006 was fortunate to have been invited to perform at the 2008 Christmas Invitation Concert as guests of the Texas Master Chorale. Not only was this an opportunity to sing with an outstanding community choir, but it gave high school students the opportunity to sing advanced literature while being accompanied by a professional orchestra. This is an opportunity that most high school choirs do not have. Through this experience, several exciting things happened to the choir as a whole and to individual members.

During the preparation for the concert, singers were more focused and more aware of their voices. The literature, although challenging, was attainable and offered various solo opportunities. Students went through an audition process for the solos, learned even more about vocal projection and experienced first hand the challenges facing a choir and soloists when being accompanied by a full orchestra. The teaching opportunities went above and beyond the usual octavos performed in high school. Students were much more aware of diction, tonal production and stage presence because of the opportunity to sing in a public arena rather than in a high school auditorium. Knowing that the community would be listening to them instilled a sense of pride and desire to be the best they could be.

From the 2008-09 first senior class of choir members, several are majoring in music, but more importantly, the experience firmly seeded a love of choral music in each singer and the desire to keep singing in an ensemble even if they are not majoring in music. Several former students have shared with me how much they miss the choir and the experiences they shared.

The 2009-2010 senior class of choir members has at least six members of a class of 50 that plan on pursuing a career in music. More who plan on staying in the area want the opportunity to audition for and to sing with the Texas Master Chorale. This is a testament to that group as well. The students felt welcomed and a part of that group even if it was only for a brief moment.

This experience was positive in every aspect. We are proud of our accomplishment and are grateful that the Texas Master Chorale offered us the opportunity. Cypress Woods High School Choir will eagerly await a second invitation to sing with this organization

Marsha Robinson
Choir Director
Cypress Woods High School

