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NEWS RELEASE  
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## **Two ECSD High School Choirs Shined at State MPAs**

Pensacola, FL: For music students, performances are a way to fine tune their repertoire to near perfection in preparation for singing or playing in front of an audience. MPAs – Musical Performance Assessments – are their way of seeing how well they measure up against a standard. They don't win or lose, instead they shoot for as many individual judge rankings of Superior as they can get at the District level, so they can move up to compete at State. At State they hope for Superiors again, but earning an Excellent, especially at the State level, acknowledges that you are among the best in Florida. This year, ECSD had two high school choruses make it to State MPA. Here is a report on each chorus.

### **Pine Forest High School**

Micah Roland, PFHS Choral music Director, proudly reports that the choral department at Pine Forest has experienced some tremendous accomplishments this school year..

"First, our honor choir, Les Chanteurs, received overall Superior ratings this year at district MPA for the second consecutive year, and qualified for State MPA. Last year was their first time performing at district MPA since 1998, and to again perform and receive overall superior this year was truly a testament to the hard work our honor choir students put in all year. I am very proud of their diligence and desire to cultivate their musicianship. To perform at the highest choral level is what we continue to strive for."

Last year, the Pine Forest Honor Choir qualified for state, but they were unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict with Prom. So, qualifying for State MPA again this year had special meaning for many of their returning members. This year's State MPA was held in Tallahassee, FL and featured schools from as far away as Jacksonville.

Lese Chanteurs earned straight Excellent ratings from the judges at State, and received many accolades from those in attendance for their wonderful performance. The choir's diverse repertoire was also highlighted by the district and state MPA adjudicators. Their repertoire included "Choose Something Like A Star," by Randall Thompson, "Esto Les Digo," by Kinley Lange, and "Good News, the Chariot's Comin'," by Moses Hogan.

“I am very proud of this accomplishment, because over half of the 23 students that participated this year, and the 21 who were in chorus last year, did not come from middle school choral programs,” added Roland. “Either they came from a school that didn’t have a middle school choral program, or they just decided to get involved in chorus once they came to high school, so we had to work much harder to level up.”

Roland credits their school for supporting every effort made by the choral department to represent our county at the district and state level. Last year, Pine Forest was the only ECSD high school chorus to qualify for state while this year it was Pine Forest *and* Tate High School.

The members of the Pine Forest Honor Chorus are:

Sopranos - Rachel Crews, Madeleine Copeland, Samantha Ellis, Alyssa Javier, Kenzy Kalfus, Autumn Hall, Brianna Sasser, Artayasiah Walker, Kriesten Calhoun

Altos - Mariah Lambert, Jacarie Carlisle, Baylee Davis, Tramesia Butler, Natasha Durant, Jade Morris, Chasity Mackey

Tenors - Trey Haynes, Jacob Cotton, Jose Parilla

Bass - Noah Ellis, John Stapleton, Adaryll LeGrant

### **Tate High School**

The 45 student musicians of J.M. Tate Senior H.S. "Cantus" Women's Choir recently performed at the 2016 Florida Vocal Association State Music Performance Assessment in Tallahassee, FL. The group received a Superior rating at District MPA, which qualified them for State, where they performed and received an overall Excellent rating. This is the third year in the past four years under the direction of Mrs. Cynthia Dumulot, Tate High's Choral Director and Piano Instructor, that the choir has earned superior ratings at district, and traveled to State MPA.

In 2013, Tate's choir received an overall Superior rating at State MPA, a first for Escambia County choral programs in over 20 years. Their choir delivered an outstanding performance this year in Tallahassee, and received straight Excellent ratings and many compliments from other directors and audience members.

Seniors in this year's Cantus Women's choir are: Kaitlyn Brown, Taylor Faulkner, Hannah Goalen, Miranda Hollowell, Amanda Lee, Katera Lee, Morgan Hamilton, and Kayla Winters.

Their final performance was May 17, where they performed choral highlights from "Aladdin" the Musical – sung by the mixed chorus; their MPA Concert repertoire was sung by the Cantus Women's Choir along with a special arrangement of "I Say A Little Prayer." The Vocal Jazz Ensemble sang "Besame Mucho," along with Two New York Voices' arrangements of "Smack Dab in the Middle." And "Me and Julio Down By The Schoolyard." The finale featured a mas choir finale of the Beatles' song, "In My Life." They were accompanied by Cynthia Dumulot on piano, Fred Dumulot on drums, and Tom Latenser on bass.

Also this year, Tate's Chorus students traveled to participate in a Disney Performing Arts Workshop. While there, they had a surprise visit with Corey Cott, who performed the lead role in Disney's Broadway Show, "Newsies." He had attended the very same workshop when he was in high school.

This video can be seen on Disney's web site: **Former 'Newsies' Star Returns to Disney Roots for a Special Disney Performing Arts Workshop Visit with the students of Tate H.S. Chorus**  
<https://disneyarks.disney.go.com/blog/2016/03/former-newsies-star-returns-to-disney-roots-for-a-special-disney-performing-arts-workshop-visit/>

The video shows clips of students working and singing with a clinician as well as getting to meet and have a Q&A with Corey Cott. It also includes interviews of seniors Kaela Tibbs and Justin Nieves.

Domulot said, "Mr. Cott performed "Santa Fe" for the students, the opening song from the Broadway show "Newsies" where he held the lead role as Jack Kelley. This was a very special experience and performance by a Broadway star in a small, intimate setting – something that does not happen often. We were all completely mesmerized by his performance and some were moved to tears."

Mr. Cott just happened to be visiting the park with his family for the weekend, and wanted to surprise the students by sharing his Disney story, as well as tips for students considering a career in performing arts."

Photo info:  
Pine Forest Honor Choir



## Tate Cantus Choir



Media queries about any event listed on this release should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at 850-469-6219 or [kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us](mailto:kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us).

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