

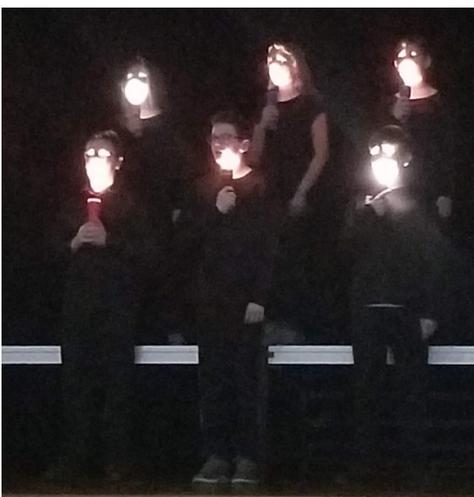
# The Elmwood Trouvère

## Elmwood Choir News 2019-2020

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**What is a Trouvère?** In the medieval era of music history, a Trouvère was a poet-composer in Northern France who was either of noble birth, or catered to royalty. They are very similar to a Troubadour, with the difference being that the Troubadours were from the southern regions of France.



This year, the Concert Choir, Troubadours and 6th Grade Choir joined together to host our first **Choir Autumn Spooktacular Dessert Night**. Later in the week, we took our whole show to Mt. Zion church and performed for a senior citizen luncheon.





Pictured above: The Concert Choir performs *Thriller*

Our next big event for Concert Choir was to sing *O Canada* at a **Walleye game**. The 5th Grade Choir had the honor of performing the National Anthem and the Armed Forces songs at our **MS Veteran's Day program**. The Concert Choir, Troubadours, and members of 7th and 8th grade choirs put on an entertaining **Madrigal Dinner**.



Concert Choir and the Troubadours also took holiday selections to the Wayne Senior Center where they were fed lunch!



Pictured above: 4 consecutive Madrigal Dinner kings!



In December, the Troubadours had a caroling party where they rang the Salvation Army bell at Walmart, caroled in Jerry City, and then had a white elephant gift exchange.



The Middle School Choirs and Troubadours performed at the **MS Holiday Assembly** before Christmas break.





Pictured to the left: Concert Choir members went to the Valentine Theater to see Toledo Opera's production of Verdi's *Macbeth*. Pictured underneath is the Concert Choir's annual local trip. This year we saw *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Stranahan Theater and had a catered Olive Garden Dinner at the school.

In February, two of our 6th grade students, Ava Puckett and Avalynn Stearns sang in a children's honors chorus in Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, performed by the Toledo Symphony, the Toledo Ballet, and BGSU Chorus. A member of the BGSU University Choral Society, Elmwood choir alumna Morghan Strayer also performed in this event. Eleven choir students came to watch the event and the Toledo Symphony welcomed us on the big screen!



# HS Choir Year Awards

## 1st Year Choir Award – Lyre Pin

Faith Bee  
 Madison Bowers  
 Abi Craig  
 Leila-Christine Hile  
 Kaitlynn Logston  
 Mackenzie Murray  
 Lily Nuding  
 Karson Palmer  
 Emalie Schroeder  
 Faith Shellhammer  
 Kaitlyn Swartz  
 Mallory Sweet  
 Zoe Thomas  
 Khaylie Wiggins

## 2nd Year Choir Award – Letter

Aleesia Baldonado  
 Seth Barringer  
 Tyler Baum  
 Erin Harris  
 Jade Hathaway  
 Thaddeus Hopkins-Fawcett  
 Aurora Jordan  
 Jordyn Kern  
 Riley Olea  
 Kyler Puckett  
 Solanna Riddle  
 Makaylee Rochowiak  
 Aaron Smith  
 Clarissa Strong  
 Grace Tienarend  
 Jesse Wise

## 3rd Year Choir Award – Choir Medal

Mason Coulter  
 Aleiya Douglas  
 Dylan Gheen  
 Kaylie Kingery  
 Rebecca Rook  
 Michelle Wickersham

## 4th Year Choir Award – Plaque

Jonah Houtz

## 1st Year Troubadour Award – Medal

Tyler Baum  
 Madison Bowers  
 Aurora Jordan  
 Kaitlynn Logston  
 Lily Nuding  
 Karson Palmer  
 Emalie Schroeder

## 2nd Year Troubadour Award – Guard Pin

Jade Hathaway  
 Thaddeus Hopkins-Fawcett  
 Kaylie Kingery  
 Solanna Riddle  
 Makaylee Rochowiak  
 Rebecca Rook  
 Aaron Smith

## 3rd Year Troubadour Award – Guard Pin

Aleiya Douglas  
 Dylan Gheen  
 Michelle Wickersham

## 4th Year Troubadour Award – Guard Pin

Jonah Houtz

## What will you miss most about choir?

Aleiya Douglas – I will miss most all of my altos and how we pretended to be the best section in all of the land. I will also miss Ms. Rohrs and how she always believed in me! Favorite choir song– *Africa*

Mackenzie Murray – I will miss learning about music and different styles of music from different eras. I'm also going to miss seeing all of my friends in class and being able to sing with them. Favorite choir songs – *The Dream* and *Festival Sanctus*

Brittini Spencer-Hamilton – I'll miss being able to explore new songs and different music genres and making memories with the group. Favorite choir song – *Africa*

# Honors Choruses

**Ohio Choral Directors Association's Men's Honors Chorus**  
Ben Armbruster ('19)  
Thaddeus Hopkins-Fawcett  
Jonah Houtz  
Nathaniel Ziebold (Penta student)

**BGSU Honors Chorus**  
with composer-in-residence  
**Stacey Gibbs**  
  
Makaylee Rochowiak

**Ohio Choral Directors Association's Women's Honors Chorus**  
Michelle Wickersham (who was chosen to sing a solo!)

**Ohio Music Education Association's District 1 High School Honors Chorus**  
under the direction of Dr. William Skoog  
  
Aleiya Douglas  
Dylan Gheen  
Aurora Jordan  
Emalie Schroeder

**Ohio Choral Directors Association's Children's Honors Chorus**  
  
Kaitlynn Logston  
Merryn Lowery  
Lily Nuding  
Rachel Patterson  
Emalie Schroeder



**Carmina Burana Children's Honors Chorus**  
Ava Puckett  
Avalynn Stearns  
(See pictures on p.4)

**OMEA's Ohio All State Choir**  
under the direction of **Dr. André Thomas**  
  
Jonah Houtz



**Ohio Music Education Association's District 1 Junior High Honors Chorus**  
under the direction of Mrs. Janine Baughman  
  
Emily Abke  
Heavenli King  
Merryn Lowery  
Noah Palmer



## OMEA High School Solo and Ensemble Contest

### Class A Superior Rating

Troubadours  
Aleiya Douglas  
Dylan Gheen  
Becca Rook

### Class A Excellent Rating

Jonah Houtz

### Class B Superior Rating

Aurora Jordan  
Michelle Wickersham

### Class B Excellent Rating

Solanna Riddle

### Class B Good Rating

Makaylee Rochowiak

### Class C Superior Rating

Tyler Baum  
Madison Bowers  
Jade Hathaway  
Thaddeus Hopkins-Fawcett  
Karson Palmer  
Aaron Smith  
Clarissa Strong

### Class C Excellent Rating

Erin Harris  
Lily Nuding

## OMEA Junior High Solo and Ensemble Contest

Due to Covid-19, this event was cancelled. I'm choosing to recognize these singers because had this been a normal year, they would have received recognition for solos. Even though they didn't get a chance to sing at this event, I hope they will do this at their next opportunity. The Ohio Music Education Association's Solo and Ensemble contest is a great event for young singers and young instrumentalists. These are the brave souls who were signed up to take solos: **Zoe Thomas, Emily Abke, Reyona Edwards, Aryana Hernandez, Heavenli King, Noah Palmer, Rachel Patterson, Morgan Ransom, Josie Robinson, Demetrius Walker, Emma Worley**

## Favorite Choir Songs

Dylan Gheen — My favorite was *Morokeni* by Bernard Krüger. We did this song a long time ago at an honors chorus. It is extremely catchy and my siblings randomly sing it.

Jade Hathaway — I would have to say my favorite piece I sang for choir would have to be my solo piece for Solo and Ensemble — *Your Friend Shall Be the Tall Wind*.

Tad Hopkins-Fawcett — I don't think anyone else would remember this, but my favorite song was the mash-up of *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel* and *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho*. I always love singing spirituals and anything in the gospel style of music.

Kyler Puckett — I actually really liked the most recent song you gave us which was *The Awakening*. I loved the piano at the start and yes it did sound sad, but over time the tune became happier which led it to being one of my favorites. (composer Joseph Martin)

Solanna Riddle — One I remember really well is *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*. That was really fun to do a cappella.

Aaron Smith — My favorite piece would either have to be *Thriller* or *Prayer of the Children*. I love *Thriller* due to the fact it was so fun to do and the choreography was good. And I love *Prayer* because it was such a difficult song to put together, but when we sang it at contest and got a 1 I think it all was worth it.

Emily Schroeder — My favorite song I've ever sung is *Diriat-on* from an honors chorus. It is a song in French and it is so beautiful!!

Clarissa Strong — My favorite song is *Siyahamba* from last year! This song had so much energy and I loved singing it!!

Mallory Sweet — My favorite was *Festival Sanctus* — as soon as I learned my part I fell in love with it. The whole choir blended together and every time we sang it together I got cold chills. It's a great song to sing!

# A Tribute to Choir Graduates

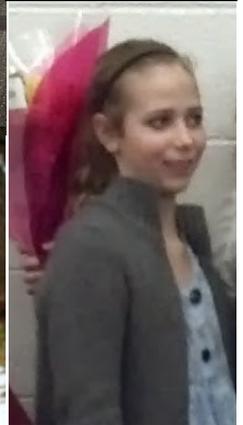
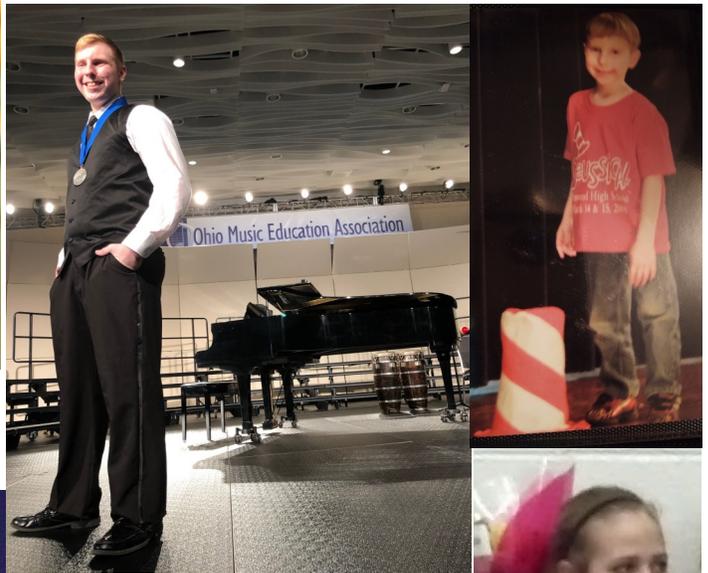
Having the end of your senior year completely thwarted by a pandemic is not the greatest experience, so I decided I would create this newsletter not just to recognize the accomplishments of the choir students, but also to spotlight the 2019-20 choir seniors, all who are dear to me in so many ways. This will not make-up for what you have lost—the *Sleep, Dream, Awaken* concert, the Spring Arts Festival, Baccalaureate, various honors choruses of the spring and summer, and honors ceremonies and recognitions to publicly commend your efforts and achievements, among other things, but this is an attempt to make you feel appreciated. This group of individuals has been wonderful to work with. They are mature, avid performers and they have been lovely in every way—great role models for their underclass fellow choir members and they will be greatly missed.

Aleiya—wow! What a performer you are, and with amazing song-writing skills! Thank-you for sharing your gift of music with us. How great it is to have a music student with the creative ability to compose a song for her fellow graduating seniors! Your songs are awesome. I hope you keep writing and performing!



Becca—could there be a sweeter young lady with the voice of an angel? Your quiet yet confident spirit has earned you the admiration of so many and you will be so greatly missed! You are so respectful and kind to others and a great role model for other choir members. I hope you keep singing your whole life long and blessing your community with your talents.

Jonah—one of the most helpful choir members of all time! Jonah has lent his truck to hauling equipment and props between buildings for many performances and if there was a large heavy object on stage, it is highly likely Jonah helped to put it there. He is an expert at riser set-up and take-down and always contributed to the man-power needed to get this job done. I appreciate this incredible work ethic.



Mack Murray—I am so glad you came back to choir! For three years there was a “Mackenzie Murray-shaped hole” in the alto section. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate your extreme maturity in rehearsal as well as your sparkling personality. Having you as an actress in the Madrigal Dinner this year was an added bonus! You are a class-act performer and a lovely person!

# Aleiya Douglas

Aleiya Douglas—to know her is to love her! This 3rd year Elmwood Choir member and 3rd year Troubadour has an amazing gift for singing and is an equally humble, genuine, lovely, kind person. Aleiya has auditioned into OMEA District 1 Honors Chorus 3 times and has also participated in the University of Toledo Honors Chorus, where she sang one of her favorite choral pieces, *Requiem* by Gilkyson. She has taken solos to contest for 3 years and has earned a superior rating for every solo. This recipient of one of the Outstanding Choir Senior awards also earned the Music Boosters' Choir Scholarship. In 2019 Aleiya entered the Ohio's Got Talent competition and she earned an Honorable Mention at the finals. Theater roles from Elmwood and St. Wendelin are: children's chorus in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Princess No. 12 in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Miss Scarlett in *Clue*, Morticia in *The Addams Family*, Trix the Aviatrix in the *Drowsy Chaperone*, and she was preparing to play Alice in *Wonderland High* for this year. Aleiya plans to attend the University of Cincinnati this Fall.



# JONAH HOUTZ

Jonah is perhaps the most highly decorated singer to graduate from Elmwood in the last 20 years. To date he is the only Elmwood student to have auditioned for and performed in a National ACDA choir. He is also the only Elmwood student to have auditioned into 3 consecutive Ohio All State Choirs. These require a recorded audition and both are very select. Jonah has taken a solo to contest every year since 7th grade and has always earned top ratings. Other honors choruses he has participated in over the years are BGSU, University of Toledo, and the Ohio Choral Directors' Children's and Men's Honors Choruses. Jonah's many choir accomplishments over the years have awarded him the National Choral Award for 2020. No stranger to the theatrical stage, Jonah's Elmwood debut in 1st grade was as the elephant bird in *Seussical the Musical*. Ms. Rohrs has fond memories of adorable little Jonah running around in the hallways while his mother painted amazing set pieces for this show. He went on to play a workhouse boy and young Londoner in *Oliver!*, but Ms. Rohrs will never forget the dynamic duo of Jonah playing Le Fue to his older brother's Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*. Jonah was a cowboy in *Oklahoma!* and had featured and leading roles in these high school musicals: *Curtains*, *The Addams Family*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and was cast as Paul in this year's *Wonderland High*. Jonah's future plans include college with an engineering major.



# MACKENZIE MURRAY

This may be Mackenzie's first year in high school choir, but she was in choir for 4 years in middle school. She was a delightful middle schooler with a joyful countenance. I knew she was destined for silliness on the theatrical stage and was thrilled to see her continue on to do theater in high school. When she was in 6th grade, she asked if she could practice the flute in my room during lunch. She came in at lunchtime and she played the flute while I accompanied her on piano from the band book. Even though I wasn't the band director, I didn't mind doing this. Anytime a young person wants to practice music, be it vocal or instrumental, it just puts joy in my heart! This was a blessing to me. On the Elmwood theatrical stage, Mackenzie played an orphan in *Annie*. In *Beauty and the Beast* she played the Sorceress's minion, a gargoyle, and she also operated Maurice's invention from the inside! She played a cowboy in *Oklahoma!*, Jessica Cranshaw in *Curtains*, Grandma and Titanic Lady Ancestor in *The Addams Family*, Kitty (and chorus) in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and would have played April May in this year's *Wonderland High*. Mackenzie is the winner of the Music Booster Band Scholarship and plans on attending Heidelberg University to major in English in the Fall.



# Rebecca Rook

This third year choir member and 2nd year Troubadour came to us already having been a singing champion. Becca competed multiple years in the Nazarene Youth competition's Northwest Ohio Blast, having come in 2nd place in duet in 8th grade, 2nd place in solo in 9th grade, 1st place in duet and 2nd place in solo in 10th grade, and 2nd place in solo in 11th grade. Each of these years she went on to compete in the regionals where she earned one silver rating and the rest gold. An experienced performer, she is a regular singer on her church's worship team. While at Elmwood, she took two solos to OMEA solo and ensemble contest and earned superior ratings for both. Becca is the 2nd recipient of the Outstanding Choir Senior Award. Becca appeared in the chorus of *The Drowsy Chaperone* on the Elmwood stage and served as our 2019 Madrigal Queen. Ms. Rohrs first heard of Becca from her brother Josiah, a former choir member who told her his sister would be coming to Elmwood the following year. "She's a really good singer and she's going to be in choir." Not only is she a fabulous singer, she is very respectful and Ms. Rohrs appreciates this so much as would any teacher! Becca is a choir director's dream! She will be greatly missed by Ms. Rohrs, her fellow altos, and the Concert Choir. Becca will attend Olivet University in the Fall.



# Brittni Spencer- Hamilton



Brittni—you are not an Elmwood grad having left us partway through the year, but I am so proud of you and so glad to have known you! I appreciated how you always avidly volunteered for ANYTHING! If I started to say “I need someone to.....” your hand was always the first up before I finished saying what needed to be done. This spirit of helpfulness will take you far in life! Your fierce loyalty to your friends is a very admirable quality. You are an overcomer and I wish you the best!



## Music Booster Membership Drive 2019-2020

### Platinum Plus

Gregg ('90) & Renee ('92) Abke  
Dionna Brenamen ('87)—  
—Brenamen Ins & Fin Svcs Inc  
Lori & Patrick Brooks  
Ryan C. ('90) & Beth Ann ('92) Crum  
Shawn & Pam Frankfather  
Terry ('85) & Lori ('88) Hummel  
Jay & Robyn Instone  
Bruce King ('73)  
Helen L. King ('51)  
Tony & Michelle ('93) Morlock  
Marcia & Ernie Naugle  
Aaron & Misty Patterson  
Gary & Sandy ('66) Rhodes

### Gold

Tony ('66) & Lois Allion  
Emily & John Blair  
Lance ('89) & Tina ('90) Coulter  
Scott & Jill Dewey  
David & Hope Fawcett  
Phil & Betty Fawcett  
Nikki ('93) & Jason Hamman  
Karen Leach  
Danilda Lee  
Tina ('93) & Matt ('92) Meyer  
Doug & Debbie Reynolds

### Platinum

Anonymous  
Mark & Angie Armbruster  
Kev ('90) & T. Bowers  
John and Paulette Bresler  
William & Angela Briggs  
Holly & Joe ('98) Hammer  
Megan & John Hayes  
Debra Shinew Hopkins  
Doug ('89) & Gail ('90) Houtz  
Laura King  
Brian ('95) & Carrie ('96) Kingery  
Ryan ('94) & Cora ('96) Lee  
Rick ('78) & Dianne McClellan  
Becky Nelson  
Brett & Lisa ('86) Palmer  
Ruth Pierce  
Gary & Jan Radcliff  
Darin & Danielle Reinhart  
Josh & Sandy Reynolds ('94)  
Eddie & Victoria Riddle  
Christine Rohrs  
Jim & Allison Tanner

### Silver

Debi Campbell  
Derek & Heidi Meyer  
Carol Williams

### Thank-you Newsletter Photo Contributors:

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