

# Chorus students put on a spectacular production of Broadway Desserts

AHS' chorus company presented a phenomenal show called Broadway Desserts on Feb. 14, 15, and 16. As always, the show opened with the entire choir department singing "Everything's Coming Up Roses" from Gypsy. Poe and Holmes Middle Schools sang with the AHS singers to experience chorus on a whole new level.

This year's Broadway Desserts consisted of a variety of songs from Spongebob Squarepants, Grease, Rent, and even The Muppets. Senior Rediate Zewdu sang Mama Mia with three others classmates, sophomores Savannah Gravitt, Elvera Miller, and Claire Vaughn.

"Broadway Desserts has always been a traditional show that I remember being in when I was in middle school," Zewdu said. This show is annual and seems to steadily improve every year. The vocals were on point and the choreography was neat, fun, and interesting.

A few other songs performed were "How Far I'll Go" from Moana, "Seize the Day" from Newsies, "Same Kinda Time" from Dog Fight, "When I Grow Up" from Matilda, and "Seventeen" from Heathers. The singers all executed great versions of the song through their emotions, staging, and outfits.

Each night the auditorium was packed with a diverse set of audience members. Many of them were not students from AHS. For example, alumni, parents, friends, and even students from other schools all came and enjoyed a relaxing evening filled with melodious music and delicious desserts.

Despite the many canceled rehearsals and postponed show dates,

the singers pushed through and executed near-perfect productions.

“It’s been stressful with all of the snow days and the new show dates, but we made it – we did it!” Zewdu said. “I am very proud of all of the work my classmates have done. They are all quite talented and I love them.”

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## **What a sweet night at Broadway Desserts**

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## **Broadway Desserts changes date**

Broadway Desserts, like many other activities at AHS, has been rescheduled to May 31- June 1 due to the snow.

The show is a two act Broadway revue featuring 27 songs by the AHS choral department where students sing their own selected Broadway-style songs.

“With the snow days, there just wasn’t the time needed for

Production Week rehearsals,” Broadway Desserts coordinator Georgi Barker said.

With the multiple school closures, students didn’t have enough time to practice and auditorium use was becoming unsure.

“We had to respect our choral families and audience by postponing the performance in a timely manner,” Barker said.

Students were upset about having to postpone their performance, but they know it was for the better of the show and are looking forward to their new show date.

“I’m really excited to perform with my friends but also with songs that I’ve always loved from Broadway,” junior Caitlin Odem said.

Chorus teacher Jessica Irish was also disappointed about not being able to perform, but looks forward to the newly scheduled performance.

“It would have been nice to perform then, but I know my students will perform very well,” Irish said.

The chorus department and the Student Activities office worked to reschedule the show. It was difficult to find another date due to the musical and other chorus commitments such as District chorus, Festival and a performance in New York City which takes up the entire month of March.

“We hope that all ticket holders will attend the spring show, but meanwhile we appreciate their patience as we work out new details and dates for a spring show,” Barker said.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.annandalechoirs.org](http://www.annandalechoirs.org).

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# Broadway Desserts take home stage

The AHS chorus' will be hosting their annual Broadway Desserts on Jan. 23-25. The concert will be at AHS this year instead of at George Mason University , which is traditionally where it has been hosted.

"Because of some personal connections, initially it was not that expensive for us to host it there. But last year, we paid over \$7,000 to be there," chorus teacher Jessica Irish said.

The purpose of Broadways Desserts is meant to be a fundraiser for the chorus program, but because of the high cost, they just broke even.

"We had to basically sell out [each show] just to make ends meet," Irish said.

This year the chorus boosters bought a stage extension for \$14,000, which will extend the stage past to the first two rows of the auditorium.

Broadways Deserts is a cabaret-style show. Chorus students sing solos and duets, along with their class ensembles.

"I'm singing 'Secondary Characters', 'Amazing Mayzie', 'Tale of Gertrude' and the Les Miserables medley with Annandale Singers," junior Caitlin Odom said.

The audience is also involved in the show. They sit on the stage at tables and are brought desserts throughout the performances.

Traditionally there were three shows over the course of the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. This year, they have added a fourth show to accommodate the lesser seating available in the auditorium. They will also have overflow seating in the top

balcony in the case the first floor is too full.

The four shows this year will be on Thursday Jan. 23 at 7:00 p.m., Friday Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday Jan. 25 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The matinee performance on Saturday will also feature ensembles from Poe and Holmes Middle School. The chorus students enjoy performing with the middle schoolers.

“It’s an honor to sing with the middle schoolers. I remember when I sang with the high schoolers, and it’s a lot more important to them than people realize,” senior Jose Rivera said.

There will be presale tickets available online at [annandalechoirs.org](http://annandalechoirs.org) for \$15. The matinee presale tickets cost \$10. The regular admission price will be \$20 and the matinee will cost \$12.