

April 5, 2016

Mount Mercy's Music Groups Showcase Skills While Earning Superior and Excellent Ratings

Three Mount Mercy Academy music ensembles traveled to Orlando, Florida to compete at the Festival Disney. The Women's Choir, Magic Belles Handbell Choir and Pure Magic Show Choir each competed at Disney World on March 17th. The groups competed at the Orlando Contemporary and Saratoga Springs Resorts. Two of the groups earned a superior rating, the top rating awarded while the third group earned an excellent rating, the second best rating given.

Pure Magic, Mount Mercy's Show Choir, under the direction of Fred Kirisits and choreographer Justine Kish-Podsiadlo, a 2005 Mount Mercy graduate earned a superior ranking. The group, consisting of 21 students, was judged on its vocal production, visual production and total show. "Our show choir had a very strong performance," Kirisits commented. "We have strong senior and freshmen performers who have a lot of enthusiasm and talent. The whole group really enjoys what they do."

Magic Belles, the handbell choir, also garnered a superior rating. Kirisits also directs this group of 15 musicians and he felt that the group really came along in the last few rehearsals before performing and this pushed the group to its superior showing. Handbells are judged on tone/blend, intonation/rhythm, technique, interpretation/musicianship and overall performance.

The Women's Choir, based on its sound quality, technical accuracy, musicality and stage deportment (behavior and manners) earned a rating of excellent. The group, despite being what Kirisits, its director, calls "one of the best he has ever had," only earned an excellent from the judges. Thirty-one students comprise the choir.

Next year Kirisits is anticipating having all three groups compete in one of the Heritage Festivals.





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