

The Living Room Times

"All the Noise that's fit to print."

Monday, May 22, 1995

SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

**Vocal Techniques performance of 'Grease' a success;
Two soloists forget words in 'Ease on Down the Road'**



The Martin Kellogg choirs finally had a chance to show their stuff Thursday night. They have been rehearsing since January 6—the night of the Winter Concert—to perform songs for the May 18 concert.

When the night finally came, everything went just about according to plan. Well, almost everything.

With the concert nearly over, the seventh and eighth grade chorus came out onto the stage, ready to sing their three songs, which would be followed by the grand finale, "Golden Dreams," to be sung by all the students in all the choirs.

But when seventh grader Melissa Figueiredo went up to the microphone to sing her solo, which was the second verse of the twentieth song of the evening, "Ease on Down the Road," things started to fall apart.

Melissa started singing the beginning of her solo weakly, and when the verse was interrupted by a baby in the audience squealing, she completely lost her composure.

"Oh, my Gosh," she said, and leaned away from the microphone with her face in her hands.

Mrs. DesRosier joked to the audience, "I didn't know it was a duet," referring to the baby

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Spring Choral Concert



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squealing. She walked up to Melissa to comfort her and try to get her to start the verse over, but Melissa was too shaken, so she went back to her place with the rest of the choir. Mrs. DesRosier directed everyone to sing the chorus of the song, and prepare for the next soloist to sing the second verse.

The fact that Melissa choked during her solo is not too surprising. She had done the same thing several times during rehearsals, so it was reasonable to think that she might do the same thing in the concert.

But Matt Sternberg, who sang next, had never had any trouble during rehearsals. He had trouble on Thursday night.

“Well, there may be times when you think you lost your mind,” he began just like he was supposed to. “And the steps you’re takin’ leave you three, four steps behind. But you... Oh God.”

At that point, everyone—including Mrs. DesRosier and everybody in the choir and in the audience—started to crack up. Even Matt was smiling. His mistake seemed to somehow relieve a lot of the tension caused by Melissa’s goof-up, and everyone just started having fun.

“I forgot all the words,” Matt said, trying to go along with the tune and beat of the song. “Um...”

When Mr. Spitzer, who kept playing the piano through all the uproar, got to the end of the verse, Matt quickly yelled, “I’m going back to my seat now!”

Everyone in the audience cheered and laughed as Matt returned to his place in the choir, and the song continued.

Mayank Amin sang the final verse of the song. When he got through his solo without a single mistake, everyone applauded.

“If you haven’t experienced what it’s like to get up in front of a crowd and do a solo,” Mrs. DesRosier said after the song ended, “it is really very nerve-racking. And any student who does it deserves a lot of credit.”

Up until ‘Ease on Down the Road,’ everything was going just fine in the concert. The fifth grade chorus sang ‘Wells Fargo Wagon,’ ‘Anything You Can Do,’ and ‘Oklahoma’ quite well, although they had a little bit of trouble getting off the stage quietly.

The Sixth Grade Girls’ Ensemble and Sixth Grade Chorus did equally well, singing ‘Button Up Your Overcoat,’ ‘Hard-Knock Life,’ ‘Tomorrow,’ ‘My Favorite Things,’ and ‘The Surrey With the Fringe on Top.’

After those choirs were done, the Vocal Techniques performance of six songs and several acting scenes from ‘Grease,’ a play set in the 1950’s, began. It started with teachers playing be the ‘Rydell’ graduates at their high school reunion, singing the Rydell Alma Mater.

When the teachers finished the real Alma Mater, the Vocal Techniques students came out as the rough and tough ‘Greasers’ from Rydell, singing a parody of the Alma Mater. The boys all had their hair greased, and many were in black leather jackets. The girls wore a variety of 1950’s-style outfits and hairstyles.

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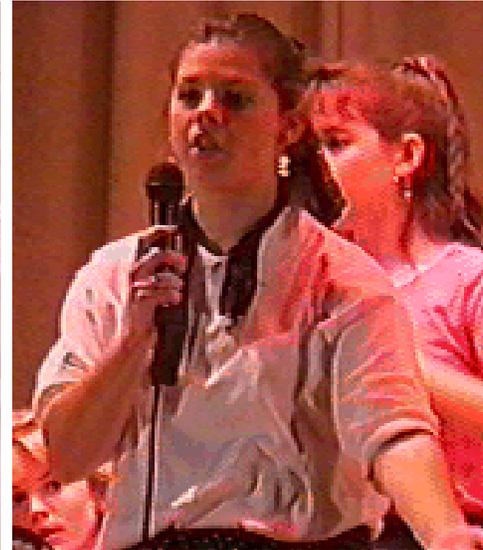
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After the Alma Mater Parody, the ‘Summer Nights’ scene began, followed by the song ‘Summer Nights,’ which had Kim Pina and Brian Newbold as soloists.

Kim, who had gone home sick on Wednesday and was not at school during the day on Thursday, came to the concert. But she wasn’t feeling well, and she and Brian hadn’t rehearsed for two days, so the song wasn’t as good as it could have been. Under the circumstances, though, they pulled it off quite well.

The next song was ‘Those Magic Changes,’ which featured Brendan Loy—known as “Greased Dave” on Thursday night—singing and playing the guitar, with the rest of the Greasers singing and dancing in the background.

After ‘Magic Changes,’ the boys cleared the stage and the girls sang ‘Freddy My Love,’ which included three more soloists—Jaimie Kwassman, Kate Harbeson, and Amber Rouse.



The girls only ‘Freddy’ scene was about a marine who was in love with Jaimie’s character.

Jaimie had the lead role in the spoken scene, but Kate and Amber both sang solo verses in the song.

Following the all-girls ‘Freddy My Love’ scene and song was the all-guys ‘Greased Lightning’ scene and song.

Bryan ‘Greased Rudy’ Rudolph and Sean ‘Greased Shin’ Vivier played the lead roles in the scene.

Bryan had the solo in the song all to himself, however, as Sean and the other guys sat back and imagined Bryan’s car, nicknamed ‘Greased Lightning.’

Backstage, where the audience couldn’t see them but the girls were imitating the motions that the guys had to



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do during the song.

The Vocal Techniques finale was ‘We Go Together,’ which included boys and girls, and had no speaking lines or solos.

The song included one section where everyone had to say in unison, “Rama lama lama ke dingity ding de dong. Shoobop sha wadda wadda yippidy boom de boom. Chang chang changity chang shoobop. Dip da dip da dip doo wop da dooby doo. Boogedy boogedy boogedy boogedy shoo be doo wop sha bob. Sha na na na na na na na yippidy dip doo do. A wop bop a loo mop, a wop bam boom!”



After Vocal Techniques finished singing, boys’ chorus came out and sang three songs. First was ‘Bloody Mary,’ which was cut short several weeks ago by Mrs. DesRosier because many singers in the choir couldn’t sing “Bloody Mary’s chewing betel nuts” without laughing or changing the words.

So boys’ chorus sang just the first two verses from that song, followed by all of ‘There is Nothin’ Like a Dame’ and ‘Sit Down, You’re Rockin’ The Boat.’



Next was a trio of singers—Jenn May, Ali Dumeer, and Leila Marchi—who sang ‘You’ve Got a Friend.’

They were supposed to have three microphones, but Ali’s did not work for some reason, so she used Leila’s mic when she sang.

After the trio, Seventh and Eighth Grade Chorus came out. They sang ‘Ease on Down the Road’ first, as described earlier in this article. Next, they sang background vocals and echos to the beautiful solo by Lauren Correll in ‘Summertime.’ Finally, they sang ‘Phantom of the Opera.’



They didn’t leave after that, however. Seventh and eighth grade chorus stayed where they were, and they were joined by sixth grade chorus, fifth grade chorus, and all the boys in boys’ chorus who weren’t already on stage to sing the finale, ‘Golden Dreams.’

It was a patriotic medley of ‘Golden Dreams’ and ‘God Bless the USA.’ The ‘God Bless the USA’ verse was sung solo by Sean Vivier. During the song, two fifth graders carried flags across the auditorium. One was an American flag, the other a Connecticut flag.



After the song was over, it was time for the annual ceremony which happens at the end of the second concert of the year, when eighth graders give flowers to Mrs. DesRosier, and accompanists Mr. Spizter and Mr. Lagozzo.

But this year, things had a slightly different twist. Rather than just giving Mrs. DesRosier flowers, the Vocal Techniques class also gave her a teddy bear with a black leather jacket, as a symbol of ‘Grease.’

“The eighth grade Vocal Techniques class would just like to thank you,” said Jenn May, “because you’re such a great teacher, and you’ve always been there for us. And, you don’t just tell us how to sing, and how to be

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good performers, you've also told us how to be good people, and we're really going to miss you."

After Jenn's heartfelt speech, and several other short speeches, there was a somewhat emotional moment when Kristen Lee, Terra Thomas, Jenn May, Amber Rouse, Jaimie Kwassman, Janna Alexander, Stacy Allen, and Christina Mozzicato joined hands and started repeatedly singing "We'll always be together," a line from the end of 'We Go Together.'

It took several seconds—and, fittingly, some encouragement from Mrs. DesRosier, before people started to get into it.

Finally, some people in the choirs started to chant "Chang chang changity chang shoo bop" like they do in the song, and eventually, everyone started to clap along.

Once the singing was over, Mrs. DesRosier got in the last word, as usual.

"I know it's hot, I know it's been a long night. But I can't let them thank me without me thanking them. And without me thanking all the people who've been such a big help. Because, any kind of a play, or concert, or any kind of a production—a science fair, whatever—you know, they're all a lot of work. And the teachers who put them on couldn't put them on if it wasn't for the work from the students, and from the other faculty members, and from the parents, who give us so much support. Because, it really is a lot of work. And, I do—I really have—enjoyed this year a lot. And I know that my kids know—" she continued, turning to the seventh and eighth graders behind her, "there are times when—ahem—" she stopped again to look at some kids who were talking, "there are times when I remind them to be quiet, or I ask them to be quiet when I'm talking, and all that kind of stuff, but that kind of goes with the territory. I think that, um, I've been looking forward to this year's eighth grade class since they were sixth graders. When I had them in sixth grade, I knew they were special."

At that point, a lot of students interrupted her speech to say "Aaawwwwwwwwwww."

"No, I'm—I'm honest—I really am, and Mr. DesRosier will back me up on this. You know, when I had them as sixth graders, and Mr. DesRosier was teaching seventh grade, I said 'Just wait till next year, and you get these kids. You're really gonna like them.' And, I have really have enjoyed them. And I told them, I've been waiting to do 'Grease' for years. And even though I've had great vocal techniques classes, um, I've never had a class that had the right chemistry to do it. And this year, I did. And I've been really waiting to do it since 1982, when I did it last time, when I used to direct the Drama Club. And, Mr. Robison was Eugene in that production also. And, um, I really have enjoyed working with you guys. You know that. And, I'm really looking forward to working with the seventh graders, because, they're a great bunch of kids to come up into the vocal techniques classes. And, it's wonderful to have, not only sixth graders moving up to be seventh graders, but fifth graders moving up to be sixth graders. I'm really looking forward to seeing them next year, and I hope that I'll see you at a concert next year. And before I say goodbye, I just want to reiterate, thank you so much to Mr. Liebler, and Mr. Lagozzo, and Mr. Spitzer, and the wonderful Kellogg teachers who gave their time tonight, and the custodians, and a very special lady—would my vocal techniques class stand up real quick? A very special lady named Michelle who does hair at Pizazz came in and made these 90's-looking students into 50's-looking students. Voluntarily, on her own time tonight, she came and brought all the goop, and all the stuff they needed, and fixed them up to look real authentic. And, so, if any of you need a new place to get your hair cut, I would highly recommend her. She's very good. Thank you very much for coming."



Whiffle Mania!



Marlins score two in ninth to beat Twins 2-1; Indians win to remain undefeated and untied

The Marlins scored two unearned runs in the top of the ninth Friday, and the Twins couldn't come back in the bottom of the inning, giving the Marlins a 2-1 come-from-behind win in the Bunters division.

In 'Whiffle Mania' there doesn't have to be a ninth inning, and when there is, it doesn't necessarily mean the end of the game. But in this case, it was the final inning, a one-out inning, and the Marlins' last chance to come back.

The lead-off batter in the inning got to third base on a three-base error. Darnell Morgan came up next, hitting the ball into the outfield and driving in the tying run.

That brought up Nick DiBattista, who hit an infield ground ball that should have ended the inning with a 1-1

tie. But the Twins' Adam Duplin dropped the ball before tagging first base, failing to get the batter out at first. That allowed the go-ahead run to score.

The Twins did not score in the bottom of the ninth, so the Marlins won 2-1.

In the other game on Friday, the Indians won their fourth straight game, 5-0 over the Yankees. The win clinched a playoff spot for the Indians (4-0-0), and eliminated the Yankees (0-4-1) from any chance at a playoff spot.

The Indians are the only undefeated, untied team in the entire tournament. In their four games, they have outscored their opponents by a total of 18-2.

<u>BOX SCORE</u>	1st inning	2nd inning	3rd inning	4th inning	5th inning	6th inning	7th inning	8th inning	9th inning	RUNS	HITS	ERRORS
Marlins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	5
Twins	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5

<u>BOX SCORE</u>	1st inning	2nd inning	3rd inning	4th inning	5th inning	6th inning	7th inning	RUNS	HITS	ERRORS
Yankees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
Indians	0	0	0	4	0	1		5	2	0

<u>BUNTERS DIVISION</u>	<u>Wins (2 pts)</u>	<u>Losses (0 pts)</u>	<u>Ties (1 pt)</u>	<u>Game Points</u>
*Indians	4	0	0	8
Marlins	3	2	0	6
White Sox	2	1	0	4
Braves	1	0	2	4
Blue Jays	2	2	0	4
Twins	1	2	1	3
^Yankees	0	4	1	1

*clinched playoff spot
^eliminated from playoffs

KELLOGG QUOTES

“There were no great wars in the twenties. There were no great leaders in the twenties.” —V
“What about Calvin Collidge?” —**Dan Seremet**, referring to V’s misspelling of Calvin Coolidge’s last name

“I wish I could blow my head off with a shot gun.” —**Tim Stevens**

“You’re having suicidal thoughts.” —**Brendan Loy**

“I’m in a good mood!” —**Tim Stevens**

“You could be putting in decimals for x . You could be putting in square roots for x .” —**Mrs. DuFault**

“Let’s put in pi.” —**Dan Seremet**

“I’ll pick on Claudio.” —V

“Everyone’s been picking on Claudio lately.” —**Brendan Loy**

“Some animals are so primitive, they don’t have brains.” —V

“Like V.” —**Brendan Loy**

“Where’s Claudio?” —**Brendan Loy**

“Everywhere.” —**Dan Seremet**

“Speaking of Claudio, where’s Kate?” —**Dan Seremet**

“Over there.” —**Brendan Loy**, pointing

“Well, now we know where Claudio is.” —**Dan Seremet**

“Taco, you know, now that we’re doing Italian, we’re changing your name to ‘La Pizza.’” —**Brendan Loy**

“Or ‘La Dork’.” —**David Downes**

“Oh my God, you look like Tim Stevens.” —**Brendan Loy**, to Tim Stevens

“If you ever insult me again, I’ll kill you.” —**Tim Stevens**

“It was so much fun.” —**Tara Boisvert**, talking about the concert

“It was the dippity-doo.” —**Dan Seremet**

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The most violent shaking in an earthquake occurs...”

—**Mr. C**, substitute for Mrs. Agnew

“When Mr. V walks.” —**Paul Labowski**