

Chippewa Valley choirs sing a cappella for autism cause

Concert returns to district for first time since 2019

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Chippewa Valley High School's choral department will present the (Mostly) A Cappella for Autism concert on April 19. Pictured are some Chippewa Valley Schools district combined choirs that participated in a prior (Mostly) A Cappella for Autism concert (PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES PECAR, D. OLIVER)

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Students from across the Chippewa Valley Schools district will raise their voices in song to support Macomb Autism Connect this spring.

The (Mostly) A Cappella for Autism concert will be held for the first time since 2019 on April 19.

“School shut down on March 13, 2020 and the concert was supposed to be April 1, so it was cancelled and we have not been able to make it happen since then,” Chippewa Valley High School teacher and choir director James Pecar said. “We have been wanting to bring it back and are thrilled to do so this year.”

The event at Chippewa Valley High School's Henrichsen Auditorium will begin with a fishbowl raffle at 6 p.m., and the concert will start at 7 p.m. The school is located at 18300 19 Mile Road in Clinton Township. Tickets at a cost of \$10 per person can be purchased at seatyourself.biz/cvchoirs. Online ticket sales will close 24 hours prior to the event, or earlier if sold out. Between 20 and 25 songs, ranging in style and era, will be performed by over 315 singers throughout the show, Pecar said.

“This is repertoire that was selected for the specific needs and growth of each ensemble,” Pecar said.

The show is presented by the Chippewa Valley High School choral department, but will also feature choir groups from the Clinton Township schools Erie Elementary, Algonquin Middle School and Wyandot Middle School. Pecar said his high school student choirs will perform some of the music they are learning in their spring semester.

“We will have performances by all CVHS choir students – Treble Choir, Bel Canto, Choraliers, Chorale, and we might be featuring some small groups that performed at state Solo and Ensemble Festival, one of which was selected as the top small ensemble at state festival and was selected for the highest honor in the state, which is called All-State festival,” Pecar said.

Over 180 singers from the three guest schools will participate in the concert. Pecar estimated that between 20 and 25 students from Erie, between 40 to 45 Algonquin students, and 115 to 120 Wyandot students will perform.

“We will feature vocalists from Erie Elementary, Algonquin Middle and Wyandot Middle School. Erie will be bringing their select after school group, Algonquin will bring their seventh/ eighth grade choir and Wyandot will bring their seventh grade choir and their eighth grade choir,” Pecar said. “All groups will share music of their own and will sing some combined music with all performers.”

Funds raised through the concert will go towards vocal music at the event’s participating Chippewa Valley Schools and Macomb Autism Connect. Macomb Autism Connect assists families of people with autism in getting together for social benefit and support. Pecar said that the concert will also teach students to work together towards a greater common goal.

“They are using their voices to make a difference,” Pecar said. “This is a great opportunity for students to recognize others and what they can do to help them.”