

# Wilson High School choir wins first state championship; Cleveland takes second

Southwest Portland's Wilson High School "Wilsingers/WAVE" concert choir reached new heights by winning the 5A OSAA Choir State Championships at George Fox University in Newberg on May 11.

Under the guidance of choir director Margaret Murer, and with student accompanist Gillian Bergman, the Wilsingers/WAVE choir performed five pieces: "Cantate Domino," "The Seal Lullaby," "Cantiam la bella Clorie," "I Love My Love," and finishing with "Elijah Rock."

Carla Nilsen, a three-time Wilsinger parent and an experienced choral performer, attended the state competition and commented "One of the things I was so impressed with was the changes in dynamics the choir performed, especially on 'I Love My Love'".

"It was amazing that a choir of that size could sing so well so quietly," said Nilsen. "Their blend on all the songs was exquisite."

Following the performance, the students were tested on sight reading and received one of the highest marks out of 11 other very qualified 5A choirs.

Many of these students have been singing together for four years now at Wilson, some since middle school at Jackson or Robert Gray. Many dedicate their time outside of school to participate in other choirs throughout the metro area.

The state championship was won by 57 Wilsinger choir students including: Sierra Ambrosio-Wood, Colby Anderson, Evan Anderson, Shayda Ansari, Ariel Black, Alyssa Bell-Padgett, Gillian Bergmann, Serenna Cady, Joe Charlone, Ethan Conroy, Sarah Corvi, Camille Cote, Courtney Cowan, Jennifer Dana, Alex Diaz-Hui, and Nick Diaz-Hui.

Singers included Sam Donily, Francesca Fontana, Connor French, Vincent Hand, Sarah Hall-Dolezal, Erin Healy, Emma Iverson, Raven Jewell, Aiden Koll, Lauren Lamont, Claire Lemley, Veronica Lindquist, Ian Magill, Austin Mahar, Gerhett Moser, Dana Nathanson, Sage Nicholson, Ryan Nilsen, Emily O'Loughlin, Jessica O'Loughlin, and Olivia Patton.

Other singers were Calvin Porterfield, Maddie Price, Ameilia Rathbun, Sam Reed, Kenzie Richter, Alberto Rincon, Aaron Ristau, Firenze Rodri-



Wilson High School's concert choir won their first state championship on May 11 at George Fox University. (Photo by Chantal Wright)

guez, Amy Schenk, Samantha Seibt, Lindsay Spear, Christina Strahm, James Trotter, Andrew Turel, Jacob Weber, Joseph Weissig, Alyssa Welty, Olivia Whittaker, Sahara Wright, and Saba Zewdie.

This was a first for Wilson choir. Cleveland High School "A" Concert Choir placed second under the direction of Diana Rowey. It was also a first for two PPS high schools to earn the top finishes in one year.

"This is the first time that two Portland high schools have placed in the top five of this prestigious annual

event - founded in 1987," said Steve Peter, a former choral director at both schools. "It's a thrill to see both schools being recognized for their excellence in the choral art."

Director Margaret Murer is excited about how winning the competition may impact her students' futures.

"Many of them will feel confident and inspired to continue singing beyond high school and remain invested in keeping the arts in their lives," Murer said. "Who knows, maybe one of them will return to Wilson as our next choral director?"

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