

Redmond Proficiency Academy students perform at Carnegie Hall

From a press release

Redmond Proficiency Academy (RPA) students sophomores Samantha Maragas and Juniper Maurer recently performed with the Honors Treble Choir Ensemble for the 2022 High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The Honors Treble Choir is an all-girl choir with about 90 students. Participation in one of the five honors ensembles is limited to the highest-rated high school performers from across the world.

Maragas and Maurer auditioned for the series and were accepted after a review by the selection board, according to a press release

“Samantha and Juniper are both very focused and passionate about singing,” said Jonathan Moore, RPA’s music director. “I really enjoy working with them in Vocal Ensemble and look forward to seeing where their talents take them.”

Maragas and Maurer were in New York City for five days, where they learned from world-renowned conductors,

worked with other finalists and – of course – got a taste of the Big Apple.

“The New York experience was truly incredible, the view of the city and the views of the Statue of Liberty were beautiful,” Maurer said. “My favorite part was definitely Carnegie Hall, where the acoustics are incredible and made me feel like we were in an angel choir. I loved the experience and wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

The RPA students performed with students from 47 states, Australia, Bermuda,

China, Guam and South Korea for their special choral performance at Carnegie Hall.

“We got to work with Dr. Lynne Gackle, the director of choral activities at Baylor University, who pushed us through our music and helped our choir sound the best it possibly could,” Maragas said. “We were inspired through the music and the incredible speeches Dr. Gackle gave during rehearsal. She told us we could change the world with music. It was definitely the best experience of my life.”



Submitted photo

Redmond Proficiency Academy sophomores Samantha Maragas and Juniper Maurer recently performed with the Honors Treble Choir Ensemble at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

FLASHBACK

This week in history: Oregon needs 800 teachers yearly

The Spokesman

100 Years Ago

Feb. 16, 1922 — Operations of Shima come to a halt

Immediate and complete withdrawal of the Burt-Shima interests from Central Oregon was announced in Redmond yesterday by George Burt, San Francisco potato broker, and associate of George Shima, so-called Japanese “potato king” of California.

Termination of all operations here was decided upon by Shima because of renewed anti-Japanese agitation headed by the five Central Oregon posts of the American Legion, Burt explained.

The entire Burt-Shima holding, comprising 17,000 acres of irrigation and dry lands in the Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties is, as a result, placed on the market, Burt said.

Burt and Shima had previously planned upon seeding between 1,500 and 2,000 acres of potatoes this spring.

75 Years Ago

Feb. 20, 1947 — Oregon needs 800 teachers yearly, only gets 200, Putman points out

“Oregon needs approximately 800 newly train teachers each year and now he’s getting about 200,” pointed out Rex Putman, state superintendent of schools, who was in Redmond Monday visiting his many friends.

In discussing the shortage of competent teachers now facing this state and all other parts of America, Putman declared that the problem is a basic one, that of making the teaching profession more attractive to ambitious young people from a cold-dollar-and-cent standpoint.

“This states backlog of teachers has been showing a steady loss, one that can’t be remedied in a few months,” the state superintendent said. However, as a bright spot he sees a slight gain in the number now studying for the profession, together with an increase in salary making the outlook for a teacher’s future better financially.

Putman stressed that statistics show education pays in dollars and cents, but the majority of persons in the higher income brackets are those with the most education. A country’s progress and prosperity may be measured by its education level.

Thirty percent of Oregon’s teachers now are working under emergency certificates. Some of these are very close to qualification for regular teaching certificates, he said, and are well trained and doing splendid jobs. However, the state has between 200 and 300 teachers who have had less than three months study above high school graduation.

Oregon ranks high and its level of education. Putman mentioned, being third in the nation in several surveys and always among the top four states.

Putman, who came here from Salem Sunday, went to Prineville Monday night to be principal speaker at a banquet of the junior chamber of commerce. He is well known all over Central Oregon, having been superintendent of schools here a number of years ago.



Submitted Photo

RHS honors choir members participating in upcoming Central Oregon Choral Arts Festival are, seated from the left, Dee York, Linda Nyhart, Kelly Love and Cindy Green, standing Ken Shaw, Jan Cooke, Jon Hallstrom and Harold Childers.

50 Years Ago

Feb. 16, 1972 — Maurice Skones coming for choral arts festival

Maurice Skones, director of the renowned Choir of the West at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, will arrive in Redmond Monday evening as guest artist for the Central Oregon Choral Arts Festival, which will begin with individual choir renditions at 7 p.m. Monday at the Redmond High School auditorium. Observers will be welcome.

The action will move to Central Oregon Community Colleges Pence Hall Tuesday afternoon, when the honor choir will rehearse at 2 p.m., with Skones conducting. That choir is composed of top singers from Prineville, Bend, Madras, Lakeview, Burns and Redmond. From Redmond will be soprano Dee York and Linda Nyhart; altos Cindy Green and Kelly Love; tenors Jon Hallstrom and Harold Childers, and bases Jan Cooke and Ken Shaw.

In early evening, COCC choral director David Evans, who is serving as festival chair-

man, will lead a rehearsal of the massed choirs, composed of groups from all the participating high schools, including the RHS concert choir.

At 8 p.m. Tuesday, a public concert in the Bend High School auditorium will feature the individual choral groups, the massed choir singing “From Sea to Shining Sea,” paraphrased by Maurice C. Whitney, and the honor choir.

Honor choir selections will be “the glorification,” by F.M. Christiansen; Domine Fili Unigenite from “Gloria,” by Vivaldi; “Ain’ A That Good News,” arranged by William Dawson, and “Bouree,” by J.S. Bach.

Following a clinic for Bend and Redmond high school choral groups Wednesday morning and for the COCC choir that afternoon, Skones will depart for Tacoma.

25 Years Ago

Feb. 19, 1997 — One fee proposed for city, district parks

A single system development fee would fund city parks and those operated by the Central Oregon Parks and Recre-

ation District under a proposal before parks and city officials.

Consolidation of separate development fees for city parks and the park district is just one of several changes put forth by a special panel, the Stakeholders Group, convened to study ways to bring greater efficiency

to park operations and eliminate duplication of recreation services in and around Redmond.

In the proposal before the boards overseeing city parks in the park and recreation district, the city would be in charge of developing and maintaining all parks inside and outside of Redmond’s urban growth boundary, within the park district.

To do that, the city would form a maintenance partnership with the park district and the Redmond School District. The idea is to eliminate duplication of duties that all three entities pay for.

The funding structure also would be simplified. Two system development charges (SDCs) are charged for new development, one for the city parks and one for the park district.

The city charges \$625 for each new residential and commercial development, while the park district charges \$192 for residential development within city limits and \$335 for each outside of city limits.

In the Stakeholders’ pro-

posal, a new SDC supporting all area parks would replace the existing fees. Officials hope that will meet the approval of developers, who have complained about the two fees.

“The builders and developers always thought that was double taxation,” said Caroline Harding, general manager of the park and recreation district. “If we can resolve that once and for all, that will solve all of our problems.”

Some shuffling of youth and recreation programs also would occur under the proposal. The park district would continue to operate the Cascade Swim Center and offer special programs for senior citizens, sports and recreation programs for adults, and youth soccer and basketball.

The Redmond Boys and Girls Club would pick up other youth recreation and guidance programs as well as sports leagues that are not duplicated. The club also may handle youth soccer and hoops later.

Recreation for tots up to five years old would be provided by community groups.

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