

Eight attend All State

by Zoe Cosato and Taylor Voegelé, senior editors

The journey to All State chorus began long before these eight individuals entered high school and involved much more than taking the RHS minibus down I-29 on October 30. For most of the All-Staters, it began with the basics like “Wheels on the Bus” in preschool and progressed to the classic “The King Shall Rejoice” by George Frideric Handel in High School. Over the years, the passionate need to explore music took hold in each and every individual who participated.

Senior Leah Lunstrum, a three year All State Chorus participant, can’t quite hold back the laughs whenever she recalls something about All State. From the directors, to the famous celebrity look-alikes, to the awe-inspiring songs, Lunstrum thinks of her three years at All State as unforgettable.

“It has been an amazing experience to work with the different remarkable directors and learn how to work with others so well. It was also great to sing with that many people and have lots of fun while doing it. I made more memories there than I have anywhere else,” Lunstrum said.

Under the direction of Doctor André Thomas, the 2014 All State Chorus director, the chorus sang “Dry Your Tears, Afrika!”, “The King Shall Rejoice”, “Da Na Sae”, “Beautiful City”, “De Profundis”, “Nyon Nyon”, and “Someday is Today.” The pieces “Dry Your Tears, Afrika!” and “Someday is



The All State participants are dressed in their formal wear for the performance held on Saturday, November 1. (Front) Emily Harr, Leah Lunstrum, Marlee Mack, and Billie Moeller, (back) Duncan Schwartz, Brandon Bruce, Blaine Rothacker and Cameron Akin.

Today” were combined with the All State Orchestra. Doctor André Thomas wrote both “Beautiful City” and “Someday is Today.” Each director over the years does a variety of songs to explore the many different styles of music. Working with a wide range of songs from the classic Latin piece “De Profundis”, to the traditional spiritual African piece “Da Na Sae”, to the mouth band-esque “Nyon Nyon” is a vital part of training one’s ear and becoming a better musician.

Thankfully for the participants, All State Chorus isn't all work and no play; in fact, it seems it is almost all play disguised as work. Sophomore Brandon Bruce sites the growing collection of stuffed animals, like Wallace the Cupcake (who resides on Chorus director Cherie Lunstrum's desk) as evidence of the good times.

"I will always remember helping Duncan [Schwartz] get two plushies from the claw machine and the director [André Thomas] saying 'yay for you' in a weird voice whenever we did well. Even the restaurants we went to were memorable! Especially Johnny Carino's where all of us felt classier than we had in a long time," Bruce said fondly.

Bruce thinks of the stuffed creatures as a few of the souvenirs from all the fun All State related adventures he's been able to participate in. One such activity to prepare for All State was the Choral Leadership Workshop held at Aberdeen Central High School on October 8 in which both quartets and all four alternates went.

Bruce continued, "It was definitely a cool experience, because people were much more accepting of me than I expected. The older people in my quartet definitely helped introduce me to fun new people and I never felt left out at any point."

Senior Duncan Schwartz said, "As a soon-to-be music education major and a very involved musician, I am able to see a very diverse spectrum of involvement in music. For some, music is simply a hobby or an obligation. But for those who commit and wish to excel, every chance to

Quartet 1

Junior Emily Harr, soprano, 1 year participant

Senior Leah Lunstrum, alto, 3 year participant

Junior Cameron Akin, tenor, 3 year participant

Senior Duncan Schwartz, bass, 3 year participant

Quartet 2

Senior Billie Moeller, soprano, 3 year participant

Senior Marlee Mack, alto, 3 year participant

Sophomore Blaine Rothacker, tenor, 2 year participant

Sophomore Brandon Bruce, bass, 1 year participant

Alternates

Junior Chaley Bowar, soprano

Senior Emma Gruenwald, alto

Sophomore Chris Shine, tenor

Sophomore Carter Wegner, Bass

expand their experiences is a fantastic opportunity, and this is where All State Choir shines through, as a chance for students from across South Dakota to see just what a chorus of more than twenty is really like.”

When the All Staters embarked on their journey to Sioux Falls on October 30 at precisely 3:30 pm with choral director (and possible mad woman), Cherie Lunstrum, behind the wheel of the RHS minibus, they weren't en route to their grand finale performance. The hours leading up to the concert spent practicing with director Dr. André Thomas weren't the last time they would gather with a group of friends to sing their hearts out. The performance on November 1 was not a onetime event of each individual's passion for music. The event was a culmination of their experiences, training, and passion thus far and a stepping stone into their future involvement in music, whether it be as a job or a hobby. One can take a musician out of music classes, but can never take the music out of a musician.