

GHS chorus members chosen to perform at popular Disney holiday event

A group of Gainesville High School chorus members has been selected to perform later this month at one of Disneyworld's most popular holiday events.

The sixteen students, under the direction of their new chorus teacher Rebecca Ruescher, successfully auditioned to be part of this year's Epcot Candlelight Processional. They will be performing the evening of December 11th with a 51-piece professional orchestra and a massed choir that includes Disney performers. The production will also feature celebrity narrator Josh Gad, star of Broadway, movies and television.



"It's quite competitive, schools all around Florida and even outside the state send in tapes," said Ruescher. "For some of them, this is the biggest performance of the year."

The GHS students began rehearsing since October. Three days a week they get to school an hour early to work with Ruescher. They've also had to spend a lot of time rehearsing outside of school.

"With volume of the repertoire we've got to cover, they need that extra time," said Ruescher. "I'm so proud of the time they're putting in."

Junior Diamond Vo is one of the GHS chorus captains. She's been singing since 4th grade, and has performed in a variety of venues and programs, including All-State and Honor Choir performances. She says she particularly enjoys being part of an ensemble.

"I like being able to hear everyone collaborate," she said. "It's nice to be in a room full of people who love this as much as I do and really get into the music."

Co-captain Sean Bernard, also a junior, has been singing since 3rd grade both in school and at his church. He's also performed in musical theater. But he expects the Disney performance to be something different.

"I'm really looking forward to it," he said. "I think it's going to be a great experience and something I'm going to remember for a long time."

"These students are so hardworking and so dedicated. I'm so happy that they'll have this opportunity to perform at a higher level," said Ruescher. "I'm excited they'll have a chance to see what is possible for them beyond GHS and beyond high school if they keep developing their skills and stay committed."

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