

October 10, 2007

WESTWORD

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Music groups tune up for fall concerts

by Hillary Lindwall
Staff Writer

The fine arts department will begin the fall season with a variety of concerts and activities in October.

The orchestra will perform in many special events such as the Orchestra Odyssey Wednesday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Robert L. Johnson Auditorium and the Consortium on Thursday, Nov. 15, in which students from feeder junior high schools will visit West and have the opportunity to play with various Niles West orchestras.

The fall concert will take place Thursday, Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium and will feature performances by the Concert, Philharmonic and Symphonic orchestras. "America" from *West Side Story* by Leonard Bernstein, "Nimrod" from the *Enigma Variations* by Edward Elgar and "Brandenburg Concerto 5" by J.S. Bach are a few of the pieces that will be performed.

"I am very excited about this year's orchestra. We have a lot of very talented students returning to the program and the freshmen are also very talented," orchestra director Steve Katz said.

The Concert Band's first formal performance will be held in the Auditorium Thursday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. They will feature pieces such as *Nitro* and *Vesuvius* by Frank Ticheli and selections from *The Corpse Bride* by Danny Elfman. Other activities, such as auditions for the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) concert are underway. The IMEA performance is held yearly and features members of the band, choir and orchestra who are selected through state-wide auditions.

The first choir concert will be held in the Auditorium Tuesday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. and will feature pieces such as *Away from the Roll of the Sea* by Scott Farthing and *Daemon Irrepat Callidus* by György Orbán. Combined choirs will also perform *Come Travel with Me* by Scott Farthing.

"I'm really excited for this year!" choir director Amy Branahl said. Branahl is new to the choir department and expresses enthusiasm about the program and upcoming events. "There will be many new choir groups and functions for students to participate and we have a lot of extracurricular activities planned for this year," she added. "One is, of course, Expressions, which has already started. Hopefully, we will also form two new groups, one for men and one for women, that will feature a more pop and a capella mixed sound. Anyone can audition. You don't have to be in the choir."



Branahl prepares Master Singers for their upcoming concert. Photo by Jenna Temkin