

The Fall Choir Concert presents exciting student voices and performances

NIGHT of harmony

Story by Lucy Zheng and Hannah Huang
Design by Rebecca Doran



WITH EXPRESSIVE HANDS, Senior Kyle Xu sings passionately during the Fall Choir Concert. Photo by Lindsay Holman

The lights dim. The audience falls silent. The spotlight falls on the medievally-dressed seniors who start off the performance with "You Are the New Day" by The King's Singers, a pleasant and hopeful song that relates to the theme of making choices and following your heart.

Senior Kyle Xu, a member of the school A Capella Group, explains what the theme means to him. During his performances, he channels this meaning to help him display emotion in his singing.

"It's like you're being presented with a choice, either taking one road or the other and how that affects your life and your journey," Xu said. "And... the hardships going through the struggle of making that choice."

For Joey Hiraoka ('23), he sees it through a different lens. He always dreamed of joining choir after he heard about it from his sister.

Just like the theme, Hiraoka needed to overcome one main obstacle: stage fright. Hiraoka made the choice to not let stage fright stop him from doing what he loves. Similar to Xu, Hiraoka found a way to relate to the music.

Once I start singing the only thing that is on my mind is the enjoyment of singing with my peers and the crowd disappears."

JOEY HIRAOKA ('23)

"Before I get on stage, it is a bit scary and it makes me anxious, but once I start singing the only thing that is on my mind is the enjoyment of singing with my peers and the crowd disappears," Hiraoka said.

However, he lets that anxiousness fuel his performance, connecting him to the music. For Hiraoka, choosing to improve was also an important part of what allowed the concert to be successful, both for him and his fellow members.

"At the start of the year we were struggling, but connecting with the theme of this concert really helped, just making that choice to be better and to improve," Xu said.

Xu has lots of hope for all choir groups to continue progressing.

"The freshmen [performed] well during the concert," Xu said. "They're the future of choir and they really filled [the program] this time."

Despite the challenges they may have faced in the process, the choir students came together and created an amazing first performance of the year. For Xu and Hiraoka, they were given the opportunity to connect the pieces they were performing with their own lives, giving more meaning to the Fall Choir Concert.

What's your favorite Fall song?



"I like All I Want for Christmas is You by Mariah Carey because it has a nice vibe and I love Mariah Carey."

STEFAN ERIKSSON ('26)



"I like Chanel by Frank Ocean because its relaxing and it fits the vibes of fall."

SHREYAS SHASHI ('23)

UNITY day

To show inclusivity on campus, the Wellness Center set up Unity Day activities for students.

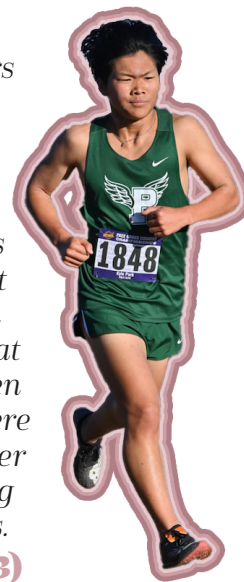


DURING LUNCH TIME, Arlene Garcia ('23) and friends participate in a rock painting activity meant to bring peers closer together to spread inclusivity. "It was a nice way of interacting with others on campus," Garcia said. Photo by Tate Hardy

CROSS COUNTRY

"The last four years on this team has meant a lot to us. The fact that we are about to leave high school sports was a bittersweet moment. But I'm really grateful that the underclassmen and the juniors were able to pull together and do something really nice for us."

KYLE PARK ('23)



AT THE LAST meet of the cross country season, the seniors were given posters from the underclassmen. Senior Kyle Park stands with junior Nicolas Mondragon.



SENIOR night lights

Photos courtesy of interviewees

As the Fall sports season concludes, seniors celebrate their final moments with their teams.

Senior night was amazing and the game turned out and the night turned out. I couldn't ask for anything better. I played one of my best games and I had my friends and family there to support me with posters and that was super sweet of them."

SAMI LEE ('23)



WATER POLO

(left) **BLOCKING A PASS** from their opponents, Sami Lee ('23) is locked in the zone. (right) **HOLDING UP THEIR** posters, seniors Catie Nudelman and Skylar Burnett cheer for Lee.



FIELD HOCKEY



AFTER THE GAME ended, Kellyn Scheel ('23) takes a photo with her other senior teammates, Anna Wingard, Mia Rose Tuifua, and Lara Lew Strass.

Playing under the lights with a big crowd always gets the players amped up for the game. Watching the girls dominate a team who beat us 3-0 the first time around made it easy to stay positive and keep the energy up even from the sidelines"

KELLYN SCHEEL ('23)