

Director praises Gilbert High choir's efforts

The Alice Millar Chapel at Northwestern University in Chicago has held a number of beautiful musical performances. The awe-inspiring building was most recently host to the Fame Festival, where 67 of Gilbert High school's concert choir members were able to revel in its majesty. They also managed to rack up a few impressive awards.

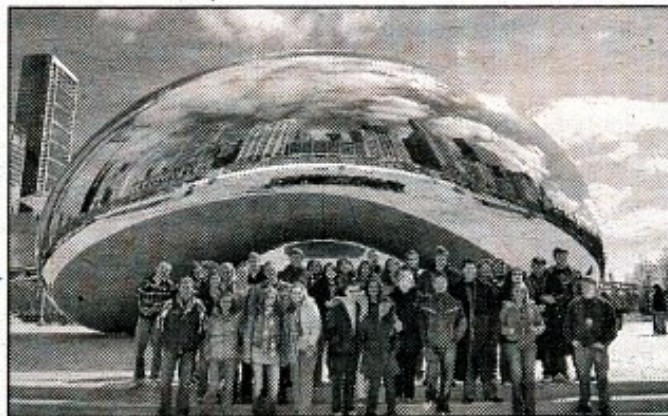


LINDSEY WALKER AND E.J. ANDERSON

The choir was awarded the "Grand Champion Award" for Concert Choirs, the "Best Choral Tone" and "Best Repertoire." For the choir's directors

Marcy Spencer and Jennifer Jarrett, this festival was about more than just the awards.

"What I'm focused on is the students singing and performing their best," Spencer said. "They sang so well in Chicago, I felt like they deserved the recognition they got. We always try to honor the music and do our best by it. The awards come as a result of that and the kids love them, but I'm just happy they sang so well."



MARCY SPENCER

Some of the Gilbert High School choir stand under "The Bean" in Chicago.

The kids were also able to walk away with some fun experiences under their belts.

One experience that stands out was singing with Chicago's Children's Choir. This famous choir has been on the Oprah Winfrey show, performed at Carnegie Hall, White Sox games and entertained the president.

Singing with the Children's Choir made a considerable impact on many of the Gilbert students.

"It was an amazing experience because they really know music," said junior Bianca Brennan, a member of the choir. "They understand what music is all about. It was enlightening."

Jamyn Jones, a sophomore at Gil-

bert and member of the concert choir, said this was his first big festival, and it proved to be a worthwhile experience.

"It's always good to learn new stuff," Jones said. "Plus it was good getting to know the people in the choir better. It was a lot of fun."

Over the course of just a few days, the members were able to cram in a lot of unique opportunities that brought them together as a choir. Spencer says that she couldn't have asked for a better experience.

"Traveling provides great opportunities for students and it enriches their lives," she said. "It also forms friendships and bonds between them that makes our every day experience that much richer."

Spencer praised the support she's received at Gilbert High.

"I have a wonderful parent booster organization that helps financially and with chaperoning trips like this," she said. "My students are the best students in the world — very responsible, considerate and fun. We had a great time."

E.J. Anderson and Lindsey Walker, who are mother-daughter, welcome your comments at ej5kids@cox.net.