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A Jesuit Secondary School

Update from Cincinnati, USA – WYK Choir's participation in World Choir Games (8 July 2012)

The Wah Yan College Kowloon (WYK) Choir, on its first visit to the USA since the school's foundation 88 years ago, scored gold medals in Youth Male Choirs and Sacred Music categories in the 2012 World Choir Games in Cincinnati, becoming the only secondary school male choir in the world to be awarded gold medal in any two categories.

One of the choir's competing pieces in the Youth Male Choirs category was *Ave Maria* composed by German composer Biebl. German adjudicator Mr. Fassender has conducted and adjudicated on this piece many times. He told WYK Choir conductor Mr. Lesley Chan after the competition that he was moved by our performance, as WYK students had interpreted this piece with sweet voices, with a very *legato* flow, fully expressing the composer's intention. The Choir's performance of a Finnish piece by



The WYK Choir competes in the Youth Male Category



Estonian composer Tormis also received high praise from the adjudicators, with two of them giving full marks. The Choir scored the other gold medal in the Sacred Music category.



The WYK Choir competes in the Sacred Music Category



Music Teacher Mr. Lesley Chan recalled praises from audience coming from different parts of the world. A volunteer from Hangzhou, China told him that the gentle voices of our boys were a rare find among male choirs, and expressed the wish to come to Hong Kong to have exchanges and joint-practices with the WYK Choir.



Principal Dr. John Tan, who was accompanying the Choir on this trip, remarked that many Choir members were candidates of this year's F.7 (A-Level) and F.6 (new Diploma) public examinations, and the number of categories and songs WYK entered was twice that of the last World Choir Games in Shaoxing, China. Despite these challenges, the Choir could still achieve these results, and this reflected the students' true display of the God-given talents. He also expressed deep gratitude to donors, alumni and parents who had given great support to the Choir, especially to alumni in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Before arriving at Cincinnati, the Choir gave a performance to alumni and members of an elderly centre arranged by the Wah Yan Alumni Association of Southern California. Not only attending alumni and members of the centre, but also the Choir members themselves, were touched by the interflow of harmony, feelings and emotions during the performance which ended with the School Hymn.



With Wah Yan alumni in the University of Southern California where the Choir resided

The Choir also gave a touching performance in the Jesuit Xavier University in Cincinnati. The Jesuit and alumni connections of this trip will continue in San Francisco, where the Choir will meet alumni there and sing in a noon Mass in the Jesuit Santa Clara University.

(Acknowledgement of photos on pp.1-2: www.capturecincinnati.com)

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