



Wizard of Comfort!
Lee Dainler



'Follies' displays UAHS student talent on stage, behind scenes

Wednesday, October 28, 2009 3:36 PM

By CHRIS BOURNEA

ThisWeek Staff Writer

"Americana" is the theme of Upper Arlington High School's 2009 "Fall Follies" musical production, which will be presented Oct. 29 and 31 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 1 at 2:30 p.m. in the school's auditorium, 1650 Ridgeview Road.

"Fall Follies" will feature a wide variety of American musical styles, said Eric Kauffman, UAHS vocal music director.

"We're doing everything from 'The Star Spangled Banner' up to a Joe Cocker tune from the '80s called 'Unchain My Heart' which has a blues-funk-rock-and-roll feel," Kauffman said. "We've got songs such as 'Rocky Top' and 'Georgia on My Mind,' songs such as 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic' and 'Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor.'"

Eight choirs with 350 students from all grade levels will be featured in "Fall Follies."

"We have songs that are simpler that fit all the different skill levels of the eight choirs and arrangements that are more complex for upper level choirs," Kauffman said. "Each choir sings a minimum of two songs in the show. Some sing more. 'The Battle of Hymn of the Republic' is our big finale with all the choirs."

Students have been involved in all aspects of putting the show together, Kauffman said.

"The idea behind this production is for it to be as student-led as possible," he said. "We've had all student choreographers. Every song has its own costumes and they researched and found out what costume would be from the 1920s and so on. They determined what the look should be, what the lighting should be. It's been totally student-centered and student-led."

Junior Keeley McCormick said she enjoyed the challenge of working on the numbers for the men's and women's glee choirs.

"The one song for the women's choir is more upbeat and the men's song is slower," McCormick said. "You have to make the choreography fit the song."

"It was bouncing ideas off each other," said Drew Berens, a senior.

For tickets and more information about "Fall Follies," call (614) 487-UATX or visit www.uavocalmusic.org.

cbournea@thisweeknews.com



BY CHRIS PARKER/THISWEEK

Vocal music director Eric Kauffman gestures to his students as they rehearse for their performance of "Fall Follies" at Upper Arlington High School Oct. 22. This year's theme: "Americana."