

All together now

Boston Gay Men's Chorus, Andover middle school students uniting in song

By Terry D

ate tdate@northofboston.com

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus will sing on behalf of togetherness and acceptance at a free concert next week in Andover at Wood Hill Middle School.

One hundred members of the professional choral group will perform from their new "Born This Way" show on Thursday, March 5.

Music director Reuben M. Reynolds III said that all of the music in "Born This Way" is gorgeous, and the singers especially cannot wait to perform "A Peacock Among Pigeons" for the Andover community.

It will be the group's premiere of the choral stage adaptation of the award-winning children's book.

Four chorus members will play characters: Peter the peacock, Craig the cardinal, Sara the canary and Owen the owl.

"We have been working with Broadway composer John Bucchino on this piece, and it's been so much fun pulling it together," Reynolds

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The more-than-200-member Boston Gay Men's Chorus aims to "inspire change and celebrate differences" with its performances. About half of the group will perform a free concert next week at Wood Hill Middle School in Andover, where they will be joined in song by middle school a cappella students from town.

Courtesy photo

CHORUS

□ □ *Continued from Page 9* said. “It’s a whimsical and lively piece of choral theater. We’re also looking forward to hearing the middle school chorus perform and sharing the stage with them.”

Two middle school a cappella groups will open the show.

The 55 Wood Hill students start the singing at 7, performing “Someone You Loved” by Lewis Capaldi and “Riptide” by Vance Joy.

The first song tells of being hurt and unaccepted; the second is about transcending fear and gaining self-acceptance.

At a time in our history that is rife with judgment — in school, on social media, in the world at large — the concert celebrates music, promotes understanding and builds acceptance of ourselves and others, middle school a cappella teacher Cayla Puglisi said.

“This can leave a lasting impression on middle school students, especially considering this is the time where they begin to make decisions that ultimately shape who they are and their future growth,” Puglisi said.

The Boston Gay Men’s Chorus program will include “Let It Sing” from the musical “Violet” and “Reflections” from the Disney movie “Mulan.”

The chorus also will sing “Everything Possible” with the middle school singers.

The middle school students are excited about being able to perform with the Boston Gay Men’s Chorus, a large professional group with a full sound.

It promises to be a memorable experience, middle school officials said, singing with a large group of people outside of their own district.

“The Boston Gay Men’s Chorus is an incredible group of singers with a focus on excellence, joy and passion,” said Sean Walsh, coordinator of visual and performing arts for Andover schools.

Walsh invites all to the show.

“I encourage individuals to jump at the opportunity to hear a debut of their new show that so eloquently and thoughtfully celebrates differences,” he said.