



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Diana Gulotta, assistant superintendent for communications (314) 953-5005, or cell (314) 575-0503

Lusher Elementary vocal music teacher accepted to Bach Society of Saint Louis

Christa Musick, the vocal music teacher at Lusher Elementary School, in the Hazelwood School District, is one of the newest members of the Bach Society of Saint Louis Chorus.

“I have a friend who is a principal singer in the Bach Society and he told me about the choir,” Musick said. “I have not sung classical music since college but this year, I had a second grader try out for the St. Louis Children’s Choir and I thought, ‘If she can do it, I can do it, too.’”

The Bach Society of Saint Louis is an organization dedicated to performing choral works by Johann Sebastian Bach and other classical and contemporary composers. The Bach Society began in 1941 and is St. Louis’ oldest continuous choral society. Currently, there are approximately 60 members.

Musick said she wanted to try out for the chorus to broaden her vocal horizons as well as return to music she sang earlier in her life.

“In college, I sang classical music a lot,” Musick said. “I was very happy to learn I had been accepted. When you audition, there are different levels. There are volunteer singers as well as principal singers who are paid.” She sings as a volunteer in the alto section.

“In my audition for a volunteer singer, I had to sing a piece by Bach or a composer from the same era and sing it in German, Italian or Latin, not English,” Musick said. “Sometimes singers audition by singing in French or Portuguese. I also had to sight sing a few selections.”

Principal singers, by comparison, must audition by singing three different pieces in different styles and different languages in addition to more extensive sight singing. All who audition should have choral experience, be able to read music and blend their voice with the others in the chorus, Musick said.

“It brings me pure joy to sing,” she said. “When I cannot sing, I’m unhappy.”

Musick has taught for 10 years, seven years in another North County school district and she has worked at Lusher for three years.

The Bach Society performs four main concerts a season as well as smaller church performances throughout the year. The next concert, the Christmas Candlelight Concert, will take place on December 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Powell Symphony Hall in St. Louis. The chorus will perform a variety of repertoire including selections from Bach’s Mass in B minor and Handel’s Messiah as well as traditional Christmas carols.

Photo Information: Christa Musick, the vocal music teacher at Lusher Elementary School, is one of the newest members of the Bach Society of Saint Louis Chorus.

The Hazelwood School District is the second largest district in St. Louis County and serves nearly 19,000 students. Communities in the district include Hazelwood, Black Jack, Spanish Lake, a large section of Florissant, portions of Bridgeton, Bellefontaine Neighbors and Ferguson, and several square miles of unincorporated St. Louis County. The mission of the Hazelwood School District is to launch learners on a quest for high standards, fairness and distinguished achievement.

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