

TODA News December 2012
Interview with Colin Catoe and Elyse Catoe

How did you handle your recordings?

We worked extensively on the works we recorded, including sending rehearsal recordings to contacts at several universities to receive additional feedback. The process to apply for the Midwest Clinic also includes three evaluations from prominent directors, and we were blessed for the opportunity to allow our evaluators to also clinic the group. We set up a recording session with a local professional audio engineer in our school's performing arts center.

Where were you and how did you find out you were selected?

We finished a performance, and were leaving for a rehearsal with a community orchestra. We checked our email, and there was an email, "Congratulations from The Midwest Clinic". Since many of the students had left, we tried to contain our excitement, knowing that we had to wait until the next day to make the announcement. For the announcement in class, we welcomed our choir and band directors, as both were a huge inspiration to the students. As we read the message, the students erupted into screaming, hugs, applause and elation.

How is the orchestra financing the trip to Chicago?

The families of the students contributed a little less than half the cost of our trip to Chicago. For the difference, we launched a successful sponsorship program, hosted a spaghetti dinner, completed a Yankee Candle Sale, and are hosting a departure concert, complete with a cheesecake reception. Humble I.S.D. is also covering the expense of the student's hotel stay and the printing and design of our program for the performance.

What works will you be performing at Midwest?

Our selection includes:

Evaristo Felice dall'Abaco: *Concerto da Chiesa a quattro, op. 2, no. 5 in g minor*

Lorie Gruneisen: *Adventure on the High Seas*

Larry Clark: *Aftershock*

Gerald Finzi: *Prelude for String Orchestra in f minor*

Antonio Vivaldi: *Winter from The Four Seasons, Mvt. I*

William Owens: *Turbulence*

Carl Nielsen: *Little Suite for Strings in a minor, op. 1, Mvt. II*

Claude Debussy/Bud Caputo: *Golliwogg's Cakewalk*

Janice McAllister & Robert Frost: *Bon Voyage! Destination...Russia, Mvt. II*

Robert Gardner: *Today*

What else will you see in Chicago?

We will spend time at the convention, giving students the opportunity to hear other groups, attend clinics, and visit with university staff in the exhibit hall. We are slated to attend a performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and visit the Sears Tower, William H. Lee Violin Shop, Navy Pier, Cultural Arts Center, and Magnificent Mile.

Anything else you want to share?

This is a wonderful opportunity for our students. As young teachers, we can remember mentors mentioning how every once in a while you get an incredible group of students - super responsive, talented, respectful, and care a great deal for music. That's how we felt about the group last year, and we couldn't stomach the idea of not giving them this opportunity. Thankfully, they were selected and a great majority of the group from last year is still with us and will have the experience to perform on the international stage.