The Ambrosian
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Musical’s Theme More Than *Do Re Mi*

The St. Ambrose Academy cast kicked off their rehearsals for *The Sound of Music* with a day-long retreat to dive into the script’s rich historical context and character depth.

“This particular musical is exceptional because, at its heart, its theme is about how each individual achieves true joy and satisfaction by finding the life one was meant to live,” said director Angela Hineline. “This translates into a fantastic opportunity for our student cast to learn to bring fully developed characters to the stage. Every single person in pre-WWII Austria—hence every single character in the show—was preparing for change. So the students are learning so much about the time period, about themselves, and about understanding how people around them are responding to change.”

Mrs. Hineline explained, that “We want to highlight the story’s message that it is meritorious for each individual to ‘climb every mountain’ to pursue one’s calling in life. We will use set design, choreography, music, and acting to portray the message of *The Sound of Music* and encourage the audience to seek personal freedom, contrasting this personal freedom with the loss of liberty associated with submission to ideals imposed by a totalitarian state.”

Students have been hard at work on the music, choreography, and staging for *The Sound of Music* since December. “We couldn’t be more excited about the cast,” said Mrs. Hineline. “Our goal as a production staff is to help the students to learn and grow and to give their very best performance at each show.”

Please see the sidebar to the right for dates and ticket information.

**The Sound of Music**

Music by RICHARD ROGERS
Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE
Suggested by “The Trapp Family Singers” by Maria Augusta Trapp

**Young Historians on Campus, Head to State**

Five St. Ambrose Academy eighth-graders and five juniors represented St. Ambrose at the Wisconsin Regional Competition of the 2016 National History Day, which took place February 27 on the UW campus. 

Student entries fell into one of five categories: documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, and website. All entries were structured around a theme, which for 2016 was “Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.”

“This first year will provide a nice chance for students to get their feet wet in this competition,” said History teacher Michael Kwas, who selected the contest entries from among school assignments.

“I’m excited that so many students wanted to submit their projects for judging.”

The Guardians’ hard work certainly made a good impression on the regional contest judges, as three SAA contestants and one alternate will advance to state-level competition in April, where they can qualify to compete at the national level in Washington D.C. in June.

State-bound entries include the exhibit “The Abolitionist-Catholic Conflict: Encounter and Exchange” by eighth graders Anna Kachel and Elizabeth Scott, and Jaimee Prado’s paper and interview, “Convert Mission: Exchange and Encounter at San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo.”
Rock climbing and philosophy. Kayaking and theology. Backpacking and Latin. Rafting and rhetoric. Pairing outdoor exercise with cerebral activities is as normal as can be for Veronica Arntz (St. Ambrose Class of 2012) at Wyoming Catholic College (WCC) in Lander, WY. Veronica will tell you that she is a senior on campus. What she may not come out and say is that she is a well-known leader on the campus of 150 students.

It’s really no surprise. Veronica Arntz came to WCC prepared. While she was not yet an expert rock climber, Veronica was ready for the coursework: “I am indebted to St. Ambrose for giving me a foundation in writing, reading, and time management skills.” Many of her classmates at WCC haven’t been so lucky, struggling to organize their time and write college-level papers. Veronica developed her solid work ethic years ago when she transitioned from public school to St. Ambrose. At St. Ambrose, her teachers expected well-crafted papers.

Now, Veronica’s St. Ambrose experience is helpful once more as she finishes her senior thesis, “Communio Personarum Meets Communionis Sacramentum: The Cosmological Connection of Family and Liturgy,” and looks ahead to graduation with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts.

Again, she is prepared because she has learned how to listen: “I know that God is calling me to pursue [theology] further in graduate school.” Veronica’s next chapter might bring her to another mountainous landscape: Denver, CO for graduate school at the Augustine Institute. Certainly, Veronica will be ready for graduate studies... and more adventures in the great outdoors!

**St. Ambrose Benefactors: Tod and Nancy Fredericks**

Tod and Nancy Fredericks live outside Minneapolis in River Falls, Wisconsin, four hours from Madison. They live near to Nancy’s mother and attend a rural parish in Big River, The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. What connections could the Frederickses possibly have with St. Ambrose?

Many connections! Tod and Nancy met at a UW football game as undergraduates. UW-Madison was where Tod earned his art education degree after completing art school. The UW medical school was where Nancy became an anesthesiologist. The Madison Surgery Center, Nancy’s workplace before retirement, was where she took a central role in ending plans to establish a late-term abortion center in 2009–2010. The Cathedral Parish was where Nancy and Tod entered the Catholic Church in 2011 and 2012, respectively. Finally, the classroom at St. Ambrose was where the Frederickses witnessed the “great work” of the school.

“We have never forgotten the hope and encouragement we received as we saw these young people reason through a complex problem and engage in civil debate…. We looked at each other and said, ‘This is where the hope for tomorrow lies.’”

Although they don’t have children of their own, they are interested in forming “citizens able to discern God’s purpose and plan for their lives with confidence and courage.” From afar, Tod and Nancy want to provide for the young men and women of St. Ambrose: “We believe St. Ambrose fosters a life-long love of learning and the development of virtue...some of the most valuable things one can possess.”