



Photo Gavin Schlissel

Teens Rock The House At The Fall Choral Classic

Parents don't ask them to turn it down...

By Cathy Tyson

It was less than standing room only at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church last week as the choirs from Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte and Las Lomas got together for the Fifth Annual Richard C. Hansen Fall Choral Classic.

The event was broken up into two nights to accommodate all the singing teens. On Tuesday evening the Women's Ensembles from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte performed along with the Bella Voce Choir from Acalanes. Guest Clinician and Conductor Heather Bishop, of Clovis North High School lead the students in clinics and rehearsals during the day and con-

ducted as all the students came to the stage for three final songs to end the evening.

The Church was literally bursting at the seams with proud family, friends and fellow student along with 300 performing singers on Thursday evening. Audience members spilled out the side doors of the venue. All the schools' choirs preformed admirably, but perhaps because of its size, the 99 strong Campolindo Concert Choir made a big impression. In addition, the many football players in their Choir added a deep resonance to their music.

Concert Choirs from all four high schools got the evening off to a rousing start, with a vari-

ety of songs from spirituals, like the literally snappy, "Swing Down Chariot," and the "The Battle of Jericho," to African "O Sifuni Mungu" accompanied by bongos, to the gospel song "Keep Your Hand on the Plow." Miramonte's Choral Artists and the Chamber Singers from Acalanes and Campolindo followed.

The big, rather huge, finale of the night was all these choirs coming together on the stage to perform three songs they had practiced earlier in the day.

The singers were packed onto risers, across the stage, even filling the first pew. "It Takes A Village," was a crowd favorite, especially appropriate as the

lyrics mention sharing the burden, sharing the joy of raising a child. Guest Clinician and Conductor Buddy James of California State University East Bay guided the teens and enhanced their performances.

"It was a collaborative effort," said Bruce Lengacher, Choir Director for Acalanes High School, regarding organizing the event. "The cool thing is I've seen groups make huge strides after attending the special clinics and rehearsals that are held during the day. Maybe it's adrenaline or fear." Hard to say, but the students rocked the house.



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