

Big Apple bound

Holy Names choir to perform at New York's Carnegie Hall



Students from the Holy Names choir rehearse at the school Monday afternoon in preparation for their performance at Carnegie Hall.

(Windsor, Ontario, Tuesday, April 21, 2015) – Mark Fizzell doesn't mind admitting that he's "pretty geeked."

"Only a select number of choirs ever get this opportunity," says the Grade 12 student at Holy Names, who along with the other 31 members of the school's choir, will perform at the legendary Carnegie Hall this Sunday night. "It's a world stage. It's the ultimate of choir experiences."

Under the direction of music teacher Rose Jobin – who will be performing at Carnegie for a second time after taking a previous choir there in 2009 – the students have been practicing for the last five months after learning they had been selected to sing at a music festival showcasing student talent from across the U.S.

The choir will perform six challenging vocal arrangements: *I Carry Your Heart With Me* by David C Dickau; a traditional Haitian song entitled *Peze Kafe* by Sten Kallman; *Salmo 150*, a latin a cappella arrangement based on Psalm 150 by Ernani Aguiar; *Laudate Dominum* by Dan Davison; *I Will Be a Child of Peace* by Elaine Hagenberg; and *Let Everything that Hath Breath* by Jeffery Ames.

The pieces were chosen by Ames, a highly regarded choral composer and assistant professor of music at Nashville's Belmont University who will conduct weekend rehearsals with the Holy names Choir before their Sunday evening performance.

"I just feel grateful and blessed that Mrs. Jobin has given us this opportunity," said Mariel Francisco, a Grade 12 student who has been in the choir for three years and got to perform at Disneyworld last year, and at the Vatican the year before.