



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

5 RSS students selected as all-state musicians

The streak continues. For the past 21 years, one or more students from the Sterling High School Choir program have earned all-state status.

This year, five Sterling choir students will perform with the Texas All-State Choir in San Antonio on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio as part of the 2012 Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention.

Furthermore, in Region 10 – which includes Beaumont, Nederland, Livingston, Port Neches, and Woodville – there were only 10 all-state choir members selected, half of whom were from Sterling.

Fourteen Sterling choir members competed in the final all-state audition at Deer Park High School on Jan. 7.

Senior Roy Ramirez (Bass 2) and Sophomore Kelly Bird (Soprano 2) were named to the All-State Mixed Choir, and Senior Zachary Martin (Bass 1) and Junior Chad Leiper (Tenor 1) were named to the Men's chorus. Senior Ashley Medford (Soprano 1) will sing in the All-State Women's Chorus.

Roy, Zach, and Chad are each second year All-State selections, and Ashley and Kelly made it for the first time this year.

"We are super proud of our kids and their hard work," said Sterling Choir Director Nikki Thompson. "Countless hours of rehearsal and dedication are required to achieve such a high honor, and all of them have been committed in order to reach this goal. Some have been practicing the audition music since the summer of 2011 and have showed a high level of vocal endurance throughout the audition process.

"In order to make the Texas All-State choir, students have to be driven to always be better and never complacent, and all five of our students represent this motivation," Thompson said.

These students were chosen for this honor through a competitive process held across the state at district, region, and area levels. They are all members of the varsity Sterling Meistersingers under the direction of Nikki Thompson and Sarah Cole who are members of the Texas Music Educators Association.

High school students selected as all-state singers have competed through several levels of auditions beginning in the fall of 2011 to arrive at the state level. All-state is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive. More than 1,500 students are selected through a process that began with more than 55,000 students vying for this honor to perform in one of 13 ensembles (bands, orchestras and choirs).



Five Sterling High School students were recently named to the All-State Choir. In the front row, from left, are Chad Leiper, Ashley Medford, and Kelly Bird. In back are Roy Ramirez and Zach Martin.

The Texas Music Educators Association sponsors the Texas All-State competition that begins throughout the state in auditions hosted by 28 TMEA regions. Individual musicians perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each instrument or voice part.

From this ranking, a select group of musicians advances from their region to compete against musicians from other areas in seven TMEA area competitions. The highest-ranking musicians judged at the TMEA area competitions qualify to perform in a TMEA all-state music group.

These all-state students participate in three days of rehearsals directed by nationally recognized conductors during the TMEA Clinic/Convention. Their performances for thousands of attendees bring this event to a close.

For the all-state concert schedule and conductor information, go to www.tmea.org/convention.

Based in Austin, the Texas Music Educators Association is dedicated to promoting excellence in music education. Go to www.tmea.org/convention for more information.

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