



Thank you for your interest in the La Crosse Chamber Chorale's *Words to Music* project. Please consider using the Chamber Chorale's *Words to Music* poetry contest as a vehicle to get kids excited about creative writing, poetry, and music. Here is a brief synopsis of the project: in May 2011, area students in 4th through 11th grade literature and writing classes will submit poems based on the theme "It's Magic!". The poems will then be coded to preserve anonymity, and will be given to four or five area composers who will each choose one to become the text of a new musical work. The composers will write their new compositions over the summer so that the La Crosse Chamber Chorale can begin rehearsing them in the fall. The world premiere of the pieces written for *Words to Music* will be presented by the La Crosse Chamber Chorale at its November 2011 concerts.

The details of the contest are as follows:

- The contest is open to 4th – 11th grade students.
- Students write poetry that is inspired by the theme "It's Magic!". Students may write from experience or their imaginations.
- Teachers should submit the poetry to the Hogan Administrative Center attn: Rob Tyvoll by May 13, 2011. Teachers in private schools or districts outside of La Crosse should submit poetry to the La Crosse Chamber Chorale, 124 23rd St. S., La Crosse, WI 54601 by the same date. Make sure that an entry form is attached to each poem. Student names should **NOT** appear on the poetry itself.
- All poetry will be coded to preserve anonymity. Composers working with the La Crosse Chamber Chorale will select a poem to set to music in late May/early June.
- Students whose poems are chosen will be notified after all of the composers have made their selection.
- Winning poets and their teachers will be invited to attend a November 2011 concert that will feature the world premiere of the *Words to Music* compositions. These compositions will be performed by the La Crosse Chamber Chorale.
- Two tickets to the concert will be given to all students who participate in *Words to Music*, whether or not their poem is chosen, if they give us their address on the entry form. We do not share this information with anyone.
- There is usually a feature article in the Tribune about the student poets and the composers who selected their work.
- All poetry submitted will be available for the audience to see at the concerts.
- Students should know that the original copy of their poem will NOT be returned. They should make their own copy before entering the original.

This is an opportunity for students to make connections between language and the fine arts, and to have some fun doing it. If you have any further questions about *Words to Music*, please contact Beth Bonney, La Crosse Chamber Chorale General Manager, at 608-780-6107 or email chamberchorale@centurytel.net. You can hear the pieces written for our last project on our website at www.chamberchorale.org.

Words to Music Poetry Contest

It's Magic!



Name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Teacher: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Address (used to notify winners and to send concert tickets):

School attending for the 2011-2012 school year:

- Please attach this entry blank to your poem.
- The copy you submit should NOT have your name on it.
- The copy you submit should be neat enough to display at the concert.

Please submit your entries to the Hogan Administrative Center attn: Rob Tyvoll, or the La Crosse Chamber Chorale, 124 S. 23rd St., La Crosse, WI 54601, by 5/13/11.

All poetry submitted becomes the property of the La Crosse Chamber Chorale.

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Students tap into favorite things for Words to Music

By TERRY RINDFLEISCH
trindfleisch@lacrossetribune.com



Words to Music poets include, from the left, Justin Weilandt, Laura Nebeck, Erin Brenner and Megan Baumler. Not pictured are Kelsie Olson and Alex Mickelson.

Erin Brenner wrote a poem about making sand castles during her summers at the beach.

Megan Baumler recalled the early morning in her poem, and Kelsie Olson wrote about her favorite color — blue — in hers. Laura Nebeck wrote about how material things are not important. Justin Weilandt described the difficulty of writing a poem.

Alex Mickelson wrote his verse about the food chain: "The bird eats the worm, the cat eats the bird, the wolf eats the cat, the hunter shoots the wolf, and the hunter dies of natural causes."

About his poem, Mickelson said, "That's how life goes down."

The six La Crosse students were winners in this year's La Crosse Chamber Chorale Words to Music Project. They had their poems set to music by La Crosse area composers and will get a chance to hear the chorale perform the works in concerts Saturday and Sunday.

The students wrote the poetry last year while they were eighth-graders. The contest drew 154 poems. The theme was "My Favorite Things."

Chris Frye, a University of Wisconsin-La Crosse music professor, said he was so overwhelmed by the creative content that he couldn't pick just one poem to compose for.

"I chose three poems that immediately brought musical ideas to mind," Frye said.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: La Crosse Chamber Chorale's "My Favorite Things" concert featuring winners of the Words to Music Project
WHEN: 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, First Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wis.; and 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9, English Lutheran Church, La Crosse
TICKETS: \$15 for adults, \$12 for senior citizens, \$8 for students; call (608) 780-6107 or e-mail chamberchorale@centurytel.net.

FOR A LOOK at the winning poems, click on this story under the A+ Achievers link at www.lacrossetribune.com.

WORDS

From C-1

He said he chose "Poetry" by Weilandt, a Central freshman, because it describes the struggles of the creative process and has some obvious musical references.

"Free Verse" by Baumler, a Central freshman, is "an extremely beautiful and luxuriant description of the transition from night to day," Frye said. "Food Chain" is a clever poem and simply seemed to have the music already imbedded in it, he added.

Baumler said her poem is about what she sees early in the morning when she goes deer hunting: "The first rays of light bounce across the hills as the birds begin to sing sweetly in the trees. The moon is fading and the day anew as life begins to wake from night's soothing spell."

Gary Walth, UW-L director of choral studies, said he was attracted to the "Blue" poem by Olson, a Central freshman, because it introduces a simple concept in an almost abstract setting that contains its own rhythm and symmetry.

"Its pace reminded me of a blues/jazz tune," Walth said.

Brenner, a Central freshman, wrote about her view of a sand castle and its life with tides. "It's really natural and peaceful," she said.

Patrick O'Shea, director of choirs at Saint Mary's University in Winona, Minn., said he found the sand castle poem creative and charming, and he wrote a piece for cello, oboe and piano. "There's an innocence with sand castles creating a world where nothing is wrong with it, an ideal world until the tide comes in," he said.

Nebeck, a Logan freshman, wrote about life being the most important thing. "In the end, I'm happy with what I have," Nebeck said.

The poem was set to music by A. Eric Heukeshoven, a composer and teacher at Saint Mary's University.

See WORDS, C-2