

# In Tune With Tuxedos

Suits were trending on choir stage

"Why would you want to wear a tux? sophomore KC Cumings-Barnes' parents asked. "So you can wear boys' clothes?"

After a few questions and an explanation of the preference for a tux, Cumings-Barnes parents understood the reasoning behind the choice.

For past choir concerts, men traditionally wore tuxedos and women wore dresses. Due to some students wanting to break away from gender-specific attire, tuxedos were always an option for everyone. "If you look at our choir handbook, it still says men will wear this, women will wear this," Hannah Ryan, one of the department's directors said. "But when we have discussions in our choirs, we have some students who would prefer to not wear a dress, so we just make that accomodation for them so that they feel comfortable performing."

Although this had always been an option for any student, in recent years the choice had become more of a trend. "This year it has become more popular because our mixed choir students were required to wear concert attire," Robilliard said. "There were more students in that ensemble that expressed an interest in not wearing the typical dress." With the rise of more and more students expressing a desire to wear tuxedos, Ryan and the other director, Samantha Robilliard, ran it by counselors in case a problem occurred so that they were aware of what was happening. Both teachers agreed that they did not have any feedback or problems. "It's the 21st Century, and this is what is happening," Robilliard said.

As one who wore a tuxedo, Cumings-Barnes enjoyed being comfortable and not wearing a dress. The choice was perfectly fine with Ryan and Robilliard.

On top of her parents' comments, others also made remarks. "People said I looked nice, but some just gave weird looks," Cumings-Barnes said.

When senior Finn Eschliman moved from women's to concert choir, he also chose the accomodation to wear a tuxedo.

Eschliman also received commentary from peers. "I went to go see my friends, which were all in the women's section," he said. "Apparently, some girl behind me, I wasn't listening, but a lot of my friends said she was being awful. It was an underclassmen that said, 'It shouldn't be here.'" He thought it was funny. "I cope with humor."



## Madrigal



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Sophomore KC Cumings-Barnes and junior Sam Lawson sing in a duet during the fall mixed choir performance. Cumings sang alto along with Lawson's tenor in "Castle on a Cloud." The concert was the choir's first production featuring the duet; Cumings-Barnes and Lawson were proud of their part in the show. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti



Sophomore soloist Noah Martell sings the solo part for "Dirait-On" for the crowd. As this solo was sung in a different language, Martell said, "I had to keep in mind the way I sing my vowels, and I had to try to keep it fluid and melodious while maintaining the drive of the song." Photo by: Shay Polson

Singing in the women's choir, sophomores Kate Mann and Maren Rasmussen harmonize during the fall choir concert. They loved the friendly atmosphere and how everyone was supportive of one another. With 46 girls in the women's choir, Mann and Rasmussen agreed that "everyone is tight knit and like a family." Photo by: Shay Polson

With an expressive face, senior Jaxon Koehler vocalizes in the winter concert as a part of the Cantus choir. After being moved seconds before the concert started because of a sick member, Koehler fit in well saying, "it provided a challenge in a fun way." Photo by: Shay Polson



Playing Rapunzel, senior Leah Johnson participates in Madrigal for her fourth year, finally being able to take part in the Royal Court. Johnson played two roles and put in weeks of work to prepare for the two performances. As someone who was passionate about performing in front of a crowd, Johnson loved every Madrigal she took part in. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti

With multiple roles, senior Marshaun Gunn, acts as a tree in the forest. Gunn said he was very proud of the student-led performance. "We have a student conducting us the entire time, and we also get the chance to see people in the play that might not normally act, which is exciting in my opinion." Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti

The jester, played by senior Owen Smith, pauses during his narration of the performance. The role came with the responsibility of conducting the choir. Smith said, "Though the skit was was fun, I personally enjoyed conducting more than acting. It means a lot to me to be the one at the front, actually creating the music." Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti

Senior Grace Clausen converses with the jester across the stage at the performance. During Madrigal, Clausen had gotten sick. "Luckily my friends sitting behind me were really nice, making sure I had enough water and giving me cough drops during the performance." Clausen said. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti

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