

## Fairfield Choraliers make World Choir games

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**FAIRFIELD** - The Fairfield High School Choraliers are the first United States show choir to qualify and be invited to compete at the 2012 World Choir Games in Cincinnati.

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The announcement was made during an all school assembly Thursday by Lori Lobsiger, director of North American Markets for the International Organizing Committee of Interkultur, the non-profit group that organizes the games.

The Choraliers will compete at the championship - highest - level.

"This means they're an absolutely outstanding representative of the American genre," Lobsiger said. "We're very, very proud to be able to welcome a show choir from our host city. This is the Olympics of choral competitions."

The competition for choral groups will be held in Cincinnati July 4-14, 2012. It is the first time a United States city has hosted the international gathering since it began in

2000. Next year's competition is the first one to include a show choir division.

"This brings national attention to what we do as artists, as performers," said Jeff Clark, director of choral activities. "It's awesome for us to be able to say we were the first ones there."

The international choral gathering is held every other year, offering 20 musical genres. International adjudicators judge each choral group on a 100-point scale, competing for gold, silver and bronze medals.

Although next year's competition show hasn't been selected or choreographed yet, Clark said it will probably have more of an international focus.

"As we design the show for next year, we'll think in a little more global, worldly scale," Clark said. "Now we go for music highly recognizable to American teenagers."

Auditions for the 2011-12 Choraliers -

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which will compete in the World Choir Games - will be held the first week in May, Clark said.

Fairfield is also looking into the possibility of hosting a competition or related event, Clark said. Former Choraliers director Dan Prior is on the local committee putting together the Cincinnati event.

The Choraliers are headed to Indianapolis April 30 to the first ever National Championship Show Choir Series finals.

The choir qualified after finishing with a second runner-up April 2 in the FAME Chicago qualifier. Besides second runner-up, the team took home the award for Best Show Design. The choir has been named Grand Champion five times in four states this year.

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