

News Release

Dobbs Ferry Schools' Music and Theater Department Hosts First Madrigal Dinner Fundraiser

Renaissance party includes dinner, music, theater and entertainment

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. February 6, 2014—Hear Ye, Hear Ye, the Dobbs Ferry School District's Music and Theater Department is hosting its **first annual Madrigal Dinner fundraiser**, a grand Renaissance-themed dinner theater experience, to support upcoming student trips to competitions and performances and help defray travel expenses. Come celebrate the Feast of St. Valentine and the spirit of courtly love on **Thursday, February 13th in the Dobbs Ferry High School Commons.** The castle doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the processional begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. **Tickets are \$30 and include a four-course meal, choir and musical concerts and dramatic entertainment.** To purchase tickets email Music Director Georgia DeFalco, at defalcog@dfsd.org.

Revelers can enjoy a winter feast of regional fare while being entertained by the Dobbs Ferry Acapella singers, under the direction of Ms. DeFalco; the High School Drama Club Improvisation Troupe spearheaded by Ellen Flaks; and instrumental ensemble led by High School/Middle School Orchestra Director Adrienne Fuller; as well as various other performers and vagabonds of the Royal Court. The singers enact the roles of the Royal Court with a King and Queen played by Will Brosnahan and Janine Rodriguez.

The Madrigal Dinner is a 21st Century re-creation of the Renaissance banquets held in the great baronial halls throughout England during the late 16th Century and early 17th Century, and were lucky enough to be an invited guest, you would be dazzled with stunning pageantry, humor, endless amounts of succulent food and extraordinary music. Thursday evening's scrumptious dinner is being catered by Katherine Weinborg, director of food services for "The Commons."

"We hope this seasonal fundraising dinner will become an annual must-attend event," said Ms. DeFalco. "Traditionally, a Madrigal Dinner most often features some drama, some comedy and a steady stream of string-laden Renaissance music, but the entertainment also consisted of all sorts of wonderful characters of The Middle Ages. They include not only singers, but jesters, magicians, beggars, fortune tellers, and the like. We want everyone to eat-drink-and-be-merry and immerse themselves in the time period."

According to the "official" Madrigal Dinner website, many madrigal dinners are generally "comedic" in nature and also employ roving entertainers who perform for the guests at their tables. At some shows, the singers will break into small groups and entertain among the audience - a practice known as wenching. The songs performed here are usually modern medieval-styled tunes. The themes are often lighthearted and romantic, reminiscent of the King Arthur legends. The audience is sometimes invited to play a role in the proceedings either as members of the royal court or as guests at a royal event.

If you're looking for laughter and song, you won't want to miss the **Madrigal Dinner on Thursday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Commons** It's where the Middle Ages and Millennials meet!

For more information, please contact:

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