

# Vocal group heads to state competition

A 30-member singing group from Farmington High School will compete at a state festival after receiving top scores in regional competition.

Led by vocal instructor Margaret Koltz, the group of ninth through 12th graders participated in the Michigan School Vocal Association District Four competition in Novi recently, competing with schools from Livonia and parts of Oakland County.

The group received scores of "1" from each of the four judges. Scoring is based on a combination of factors giving a final score ranging from 1 to 4 — but receiving all ones is exceptional, according to Koltz. Only the teams receiving ones compete at the state level.

"It's a special thing," she said. "Getting a '1' is a big deal. There's a lot of stress and trying really hard. It's quite exciting because all the schools are there."

THE STATE competition will be held April 30 and May 1 at Jackson Community College, where the students will perform three songs for music professionals from around the state who judge the competition. The Farmington group is comprised of students from the school's madrigal choir — which meets each Monday evening — and from the mixed chorus and concert choir which meet during the school day.

The students performed two pieces at the regional festival — including "We're All Dying" and "Every Time I Feel the Rain." They were also required to sight read for a score. There is no sight reading involved at the state competition, Koltz said, but the group will perform an additional song. One of the songs is from a list of required songs; the other two are selected by Koltz. All must be classical-form pieces.

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piece, "Shenandoah," as their third selection at the state to contrast with the other two songs.

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PLANNING FOR the regional and state festivals actually begins in late

summer, when Koltz and other teachers attend a weekend Michigan School Vocal Association convention. Besides meeting judges and discovering their specific concerns, teachers also get a preliminary list of the required music for the coming year.

"I don't care how long you've been in it, you can always learn," she added.

When students begin school in the fall, they immediately learn the required pieces, Koltz said.

## Intervention: topic of drug forum

Renee Gerger will speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 30, in the fourth in a five-part series called "Are you concerned about drug/alcohol use and misuse?"

She will talk about the process of intervention, a way for family and friends to convince the chemically dependent person to accept help.

Gerger is a specialist on intervention on the staff of Henry Ford Hospital's Maple Grove Center for Treatment of Chemical Dependency in West Bloomfield.

Accompanying Gerger will be a family who participated in an intervention and the chemically dependent member of this family, for whom this was the

first step in recovery. A movie will be part of the program.

The program will be held at North Farmington High School (14 Mile, just east of Farmington Road).

The "Are You Concerned" series is open to everyone. Students and senior citizens are admitted free. Other are asked to pay a \$2 fee per family per session.

The series is being co-sponsored in the Farmington communities by Farmington Families in Action and Farmington Public Schools and is supported by 17 other area school and community groups.

The final program in the series will be held at the same time and place, April 6. Judy Ernst, parent peer group coordinator of the Birmingham/Bloomfield Families in Action, will speak on the "Community's response: What parents and communities can do about drug and alcohol use and misuse."

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