



ROUGE AND ALL AMERICANS AT THEIR FIRST COMPETITION IN BEAVERCREEK OHIO!

Welcome to issue #5 of the Alumni Newsletter! The 2018 is well underway and we are in the midst of competition season!

This year we started the year a little different, as for the first time in a while we did not attend a November competition. Instead we attended non-competitive festivals at Strongsville and Mayfield high schools. Festivals were something ETC used to regularly attend but have faded in recent years. It was a fun return to festivals as a low stress show, but one where the group can get the show out in front of a real audience and get reactions.

After the festivals we had a successful holiday show and now we have moved on to fine tuning all of our shows for competition season. This has meant extra and extended rehearsals. The members have worked extremely hard to get their show in the best shape possible for competition.

On January 13th All Americans and Rouge started their competition season at the Beaver Creek show choir competition in Beaver Creek, Ohio.

The groups braved harsh weather to get down to the competition Friday night. This meant having busses depart early and at two different times to avoid an oncoming ice storm. A normally three hour bus ride took five hours for both buses. One bus reached the hotel around 6:00pm after leaving at 1:00pm and the second reached the hotel at

10:00pm after leaving at 5:00pm. It was a stressful trip, but we all made it safely!

On competition day both groups had good prelims performances. Rouge got to debut both costumes for the first time, and the All Americans sparked the crowd with their best performance of the year. During awards Rouge got 1st Runner Up in the Unisex Division behind Ohio powerhouse Loveland. All Americans ended up 1st Runner Up in Class A and received Best Male Soloist in senior Karearea Allen. All Americans also made finals.

In finals All Americans put on a great performance and moved up a spot in finals, receiving 3rd Runner Up. It was a great start to the competition season and got the members itching for future competitions.

Now the All Americans and Rouge look to improve on the year the next two weeks at two competitions in West Virginia. The first being Riverside High School, and the second being Ponca High School. At Poca the Main Street Singers will be making their competition debut.

From there all three groups will be competing locally at Medina High School, and will end their competition season at Olentangy High School near Columbus. Be sure to look at the calendar, Facebook, and ETC's website to see where we are!

Upcoming Performances

- January 2th – Riverside Competition, Belle WV
- February 3rd – Poca Competition, Poca WV
- February 17th – Medina Competition, Medina OH
- February 24th – Olentangy Competition, Lewis Center OH
- April 8th – Spring Gala, Kent Roosevelt High School, Kent OH

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Alumni Spotlight

Lisa Howard

This edition of Alumni Spotlight will focus on Alumni Lisa Howard. Lisa was a long time member of ETC, graduating in 1993 from Firestone High School. She was a mainstay in ETC shows, getting multiple solos and consistently winning Best Female Soloist at competitions and festivals. While in ETC everyone could see that her talent was immense, but ETC was just the beginning of a very successful performing career.

After leaving ETC, Lisa went on to attend the University of Cincinnati at the prestigious Conservatory of Music. There she majored in musical theater. She graduated from the university in 1997 with her BFA in Musical Theater.

After college Lisa went on to work and perform at various prominent regional theaters across the country including the St. Louis MUNY, Kansas City Starlight, The Olney Center, Goodspeed Opera House, Pittsburg Civic Light Opera and Barrington Stage Company.

Her first big break came when she was cast to be in the ensemble for the Third National Les Misérables touring show. She then went on to land her first Broadway role in 2005 when she was a part of the original cast of the musical the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee where she played the role of Rona Lisa Peretti.

After a successful run with the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Lisa landed the role of Lt. Genevieve Marshall/Ensemble in the Broadway show South Pacific in 2008. In 2009 Lisa then got a role as Missy/ensemble in the original Broadway run of the musical 9 to 5. In 2011 she got a role in the ensemble with Priscilla, Queen of the Desert made its way to Broadway.

Lisa broke through to the big screen in 2012, where she was cast a Siobhan, a member of an Irish Coven, in the last

film Breaking Dawn – Part 2 of the smash film series The Twilight Saga.

After Twilight and Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, Lisa received another large role on Broadway, originating the role of Jenny Steinberg in the original Broadway production of It Shoulda Been You. For her performance as Jenny, Lisa received the 2015 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical. She then had the honor of performing on stage at the 69th Annual Tony Awards in 2015. This was a great thrill for Lisa and Playbill Online named the performance of Jenny's Blues as one of the greatest moments from that year's Tony awards. Rolling Stone also called her performance one of the ceremony's best moments.

In 2016 Lisa returned to the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music and received CCM's Musical Theatre Young Alumni Award. This award is given to graduates of the past two decades for outstanding professional achievement.

Lisa will be continuing her successful Broadway career this March (2018), as she will be originating the role of Tammy in the new musical Escape to Margaritaville, which will feature music and lyrics by the famous singer Jimmy Buffet.

Lisa has and is one of the most successful graduates of ETC. We have loved seeing her career develop over the years and cannot wait to see what else is in store for this immensely talented Woman!

Go to Lisa's website here:

[Lisa Howard NYC](#)

Watch her amazing performance at the 69th Tony Awards here:

[Lisa Howard on 59th Annual Tony Awards](#)



WANT TO BE SPOTLIGHTED?

We would love to hear what you have been doing since leaving ETC! If you'd like to be on the next alumni spotlight please e-mail rsabree33@gmail.com with your name, years in ETC and what you have been up to!



ETC All Americans 2015

The 2015 All Americans was a very special one in ETC history. This group combined great vocal power with a compelling show to make one of the most memorable shows ETC has ever had. People in the Ohio show choir world still talk about the show to this day.

After a very successful 2014 year which saw them beat groups such as Findlay, Twinsburg, Solon, and Medina, the group was looking to build on that success. It hadn't been since the 90s that ETC had defeated Findlay or Twinsburg, so this was a momentum train that ETC really wanted to ride.

Going into summer workshop there was a lot of optimism on where the group could go, as it had a very large and talented senior class. They learned their show, which had a different feel than the last few years had been. The show was more on the dark side and was a risk that ETC wasn't used to taking.

After learning their show and going to a fall competition, the group started to realize that the show may not be able to take them where they wanted to go. After a visit by Brett Carroll of Burbank High School in California, their suspicions were confirmed. This led to a whirlwind of changes for the group.

Much of the show was changed or scrapped, replaced with new songs and choreography. The opener was changed,

the guys number was changed, as was the closer. It was a monumental undertaking as the group only had a few months to learn an entirely new show and get it competition ready. This led to many, many extended rehearsals and the group really buckling down to get this new show learned.

There was some worry that they wouldn't get it to the level that they were the year before, but the kids were determined to make it work.

Their first test was at Marion Harding's competition, where they faced up against Ohio powerhouses Marysville and Piqua. The competition couldn't have gone better, as they received best choreography, best combo, and best show design in route to a 2nd place finish behind Marysville.

That competition really catapulted the group, as they went on to win their next two competitions, taking home best choreography at both competitions, best vocals at one, best costumes at one, and won both best male and female soloists. They then received 2nd place at their next competition along with another best choreography trophy. They then ended their year with a 4th place finish at the always extremely difficult Fairfield Crystal Classic, winning Best Female Soloist.

The 2015 All Americans was a group that started with much promise, went through an immense amount of change, and

succeeded to overcome all obstacles to put on one of the best shows ETC has ever seen. It is one that will always be remembered and will go down as one of the marquee years in ETC.

Check on the "Year in review" section of the website to see a more in-depth review of the year. You can also check out videos of the show here: [ETC All Americans 2015 playlist](#)

Alumni Events

In this section we will have updates on any possible alumni events that will be scheduled. If you are interested in an alumni event please e-mail rsetcshowchoirs@gmail.com with ideas or RSVPs.

Since this year is the 40th anniversary we will try to have more established alumni events. Be sure to be on the lookout for e-mail on events. There will be one in the fall, one around thanksgiving/xmas, and then of course during competition season.

Event – February 17th – Medina Competition Meet up.

Live in northeastern Ohio and want to see ETC in competition action? Come to Medina! We do not have our performance times yet but all three groups will be competing! Let us know if you want to come and we'll organize an alumni block to sit as well as an alumni picture at the end of the comp! We'd love to see you!

Event February 24th – Olentangy Competition Meet Up

Live in Central Ohio and want to see ETC in competition action? Come to Olentangy! We do not have our performance times yet but all three groups will be competing! Let us know if you want to come and we'll organize an alumni block to sit as well as an alumni picture at the end of the comp! We'd love to see you!

April 7th – Spring Gala alumni night

Since this year is the 40th anniversary we wanted to make this Spring Gala special. So for this year we are making it a two day event! Day one will be an alumni night with alumni performances/memories, followed by the actual spring gala with the ETC groups on Sunday. Come and perform, see old alumni, and celebrate the 40 years of ETC with old ETC directors and choreographers.





Fundraising

This section will mark any upcoming fundraising opportunities coming up for ETC beyond alumni events. Information on how to sign up or come to any fundraisers will be included in this section.



April 28th – ETC Music Run 5K

ETC is sponsoring our first Music Run 5k on April 28th to raise money for our operations. ETC provides music and performance opportunities to students in grades 3-12. Our show choirs compete and are well known for award winning performances. During your run, you will enjoy the sounds of ETC participants serenading you on the course. ETC is a 501c3 non-profit. Register on [Active.com](https://www.active.com) - ETC Music Run. Any Questions please contact Lisa at ltilton17@sbcglobal.net