



April 29, 2022

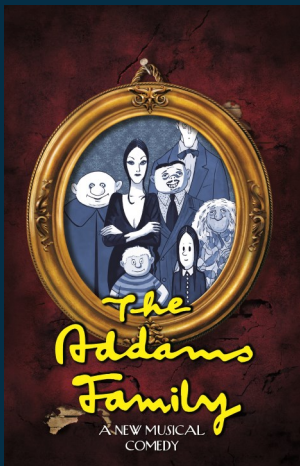


Building Beat

DHS Musical "The Addams Family" takes the stage

Performances are set for 7 p.m. Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30, in the Davison High School Auditorium.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available in the high school office during school hours or at the door prior to performances.



DHS MUSICAL RETURNS AFTER 2-YEAR HIATUS

The Davison High School musical has been a yearly spring tradition since the first curtain call in 1966 for "Music Man."

The annual play came to a screeching halt, however; two years ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And just as preparations began to resurrect the play last year, the pandemic reared its ugly head and the stage lights were turned down once again. The pandemic, along with a new director and almost an entire cast whom have never been on stage in a musical before will make this year's performances even more special.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Davison Musical and the great history that it carries," said Mr. **Garth Starr**, Davison High School's new Choral Director. Mr. Starr, who has taught choir at Hahn Intermediate since 2013, replaced recently retired Mrs. **Jennifer Orkisz**.

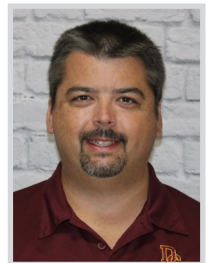
"As I've been directing this year, running around Davison picking up supplies and such, it was hard not to bump into someone who was a part of the musical in the past. There are a lot of great memories of the musical including many who met their spouse while working in the Musical as students. Those stories began to really set in with me and how much the DHS Musical really impacted so many lives."

In addition to Starr, DHS teacher Mr. **Mark Ragnone** serves as the Drama Director, Ms. **Erica Niemi** is the choreographer and DHS Instrumental Music Director Mr. **James Schuster** is the Conductor. The Addams Family will feature many funny moments and plenty of great singing.

Auditions were held in January and cast members got right to work in February, meeting three days a week for about three hours after school. The week before the show, the cast and crew rehearsed daily.

"It is a lot of hard work," Mr. Starr said. "But hearing the laughter, gasps and applause from the audience makes it all worth while."

“This year is quite unique in that almost the entire cast has never been on stage in a musical before due to COVID shut-down. These seniors were freshmen the last time there was a DHS Musical. And this is the first year I’ve been able to finish a show here in Davison. So we have been learning together, especially about the traditions unique to Davison.”



Garth Starr, Musical Director

CAST BIOGRAPHIES ...



Jon Faydenko is a senior and has been involved in Music for his whole High School career. He has gone to State Honors Choir, an auditioned-based choral ensemble, all four years of high school, and has made it to All-State Honors Choir twice. Jon has always loved musicals, and receiving the part of Gomez his sophomore year has made him even more excited to perform it now

Sophia Perrault is a senior and has been in varsity choir for three years. This is her first DHS musical; she got cast her sophomore year. She's very excited to finally play Morticia. Sophia's loved Broadway since she was little and has seen many musicals, as well as participating in a local production of Little Shop of Horrors. Other than musicals, Sophia was in State Honors Choir, an auditioned-based ensemble, for all four years of high school. She also received her Varsity Letter for choir her junior year.



Halayna Bollwitt is a senior, she took part in Davison High School's 2019 production of Willy Wonka Jr. as a freshman. As a sophomore, she was cast as Wednesday Addams in the Addams Family Musical. She is very excited to finally be performing her dream role in this show. As well as performing in the school musicals, Halayna is a proud member of the Davison Marching Band, participating for one year on the Color Guard and for an additional year on trombone. She has been a member of the Chamber Orchestra as a cellist since her freshman year. She joined the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble her senior year playing both trombone and euphonium. Outside of school, Halayna enjoys performing and competing through Dance and Theater Connection here in Davison. She prides herself on her solo comedy acting routines, one of which won her a national first place in Flint. Halayna has studied multiple genres of dance including tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop, contemporary, lyrical and musical theater. She expresses herself through music and performance in every way possible, and she plans to continue doing so through the Theater Department at the University of Michigan.



Gabriel Ashley is a senior and has been in choir all four years of high school, Varsity for the last three. He plans to go to The University of Michigan Ann Arbor in the fall for Engineering. The Addams Family is his first school musical. Gabe is also a member of the Marching Band and Wind Ensemble band programs, and has been for the last three years. Gabe has been involved in music since he was born, and enjoys every aspect of learning and working with everyone involved. Gabe went to State Honors Choir his freshman and sophomore years, and went to North Carolina State Honors Choir in fourth Grade, as well as national honors choir in fifth. Gabe has done small performances for the Flint Institute of Music for two years, namely the opera, Amahl and the Night Visitors. He has his varsity letter in choir as well.



Olivia Irwin is a junior and this is her first DHS musical. Olivia is a part of the Davison Color and Winter Guard team and has been in Varsity Choir for two years.



Connor Norman is a sophomore and this is his first time performing in a musical. He is a member of Varsity Choir and has participated in State Honors Choir and Solo Ensemble in the past. He is an active member of his youth group at Journey Ministries and works at Italia Gardens. He is currently learning how to play piano, guitar and drums.





Dustin White is a sophomore that is new to the musical scene. He is in the Davison Varsity Choir as well as the MSVMA All-State Honors Choir. He plays the Cello and Baritone in Orchestra and Band respectively.



Clara Usealman is a junior and very excited to be in this production of The Addams Family, and to be playing the role of Alice. Clara has been in many shows but her favorites so far have been Suessical, the Phantom Tollbooth and Charlotte's Web. When she's not working on a show, she enjoys competing in vocal/dance competitions, taking musical theatre/dance classes, singing in choir, and doing other various silly goofy things.



Kendra Kalfayan is a junior and is currently in the varsity choir. She has been involved in acting classes for years, and is very excited to finally have the opportunity to be in The Addams Family.



Emmerson Wernette is a junior that has been involved with Davison's music program since the seventh grade after transferring to Davison from Swartz Creek. This is her first musical production and she is overjoyed. Emmerson has had a passion for vocal music for as long as she can remember. Aside from participating in the music program, Emmerson has spent her last two years of high school preparing for her Clinical Medical Assisting Certification Test, which she will be taking in June.

ANCESTOR SENIOR BIOS



Chloe Hinkley is in Marching Band, VEX Robotics, NHS, ASO, and Musical. Outside of school, she is busy with planning her wedding and helping animals in need through the TNR program. Her future plans are to get married and to go into engineering and music at Sweetbriar College in Virginia.

Bea Renner is a senior and this is her first experience in any production. She started band in fifth grade playing trombone and baritone. She also was a part of the marching band, concert band, wind ensemble and after school orchestra but has had no choir experience. She decided to audition for her senior year and made the cast as the '70s disco ancestor. After High School she will be going to Northern Michigan University to study Psychology and Criminal Law and will continue with band and singing.



Emmily Swartz has been a part of a few productions with The Actors Playhouse such as "The Witch in Into the Woods," as Kelsi Nielsen in "High School Musical" and is currently preparing for her role as Dotty Otley from "Noises Off." Emmily's future plans involve going to Mott Community College to finish off the Autopsy Assistant program that she has started with GCI. She then plans on going to MSU to study microbiology and hopes to pursue her career in Forensic Science. She isn't giving up acting though, as she hopes to apply to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, if possible, and continue acting in her spare time.

The history of the DHS Musical

1966 Music Man

1967 Thirteen Daughters

1968 The Sound of Music

1969 Oklahoma!

1970 My Fair Lady

1971 South Pacific

1972 Hello Dolly

1973 Fiddler on the Roof

1974 The King and I

1975 Brigadoon

1976 Irene

1977 No, No, Nanette

1978 The Sound of Music

1979 Babes in Arms

1980 Oklahoma!

1981 South Pacific

1982 Hello, Dolly!

1983 My Fair Lady

1984 Music Man

1985 The Kind and I

1986 Fiddler on the Roof

1987 The Sound of Music

1988 Oklahoma!

1989 South Pacific

1990 No, No, Nanette

1991 Annie

1992 The Wizard of Oz

1993 The Pajama Game

1994 The Pirates of Penzance

1995 The Music Man

1996 My Fair Lady

1997 Hello, Dolly!

1998 Fiddler on the Roof

1999 Oklahoma!

2000 The Sound of Music

2001 Bye Bye Birdie!

2002 Guys and Dolls

2003 West Side Story

2004 Brigadoon

2005 Music Man

2006 Les Miserables

2007 Cinderella

2008 Fiddler on the Roof

2009 Hello, Dolly!

2010 Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

2011 Titanic

2012 The Drowsy Chaperone

2013 Seussical

2014 Oklahoma

2015 Beauty and the Beast

2016 The Secret Garden

2017 Spamalot

2018 Brigadoon

2019 Willy Wonka

2022 The Addams Family