

**Chelmsford Public Schools  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Chelmsford Performance Ensembles Earn Awards at annual MICCA Concert/Choral Festival**

### **CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, April 3, 2006**

Several Chelmsford Public School Performance Ensembles participated in the 2006 MICCA Concert and Choral Festival held from March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This festival is held at 6 different sites throughout the state and 80 choral ensembles and 113 concert bands participated throughout the 3 day festival.

The festival is sponsored by MICCA (Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors' Association). The purpose of MICCA is to encourage and support the development of high musical standards. The MICCA Marching Band, Choral, Concert, and Solo and Ensemble festivals provide a forum for musical groups to be evaluated by qualified adjudicators. Participation in the festival also affords young musicians and their directors the opportunity to observe the varied performances of other groups from around the state.

At every festival, MICCA intends to present educational experiences for all who participate. The evaluation process identifies a standard of excellence with which each group can compare. Every group is evaluated in relation to the standard of excellence rather than in relation to other groups.

The MICCA Choral and Concert Festivals are designed to provide music educators and their students the opportunity to perform in a front of a panel of adjudicators. Groups are rated on a medal system:

Gold:	Awarded to those groups that perform at a Superior level
Silver:	Awarded to those groups who perform at an Excellent level
Bronze:	Awarded to groups that perform at a Good level
Medal of Merit:	Awarded to groups that play at an acceptable and Fair level
Medal of Participation:	Given to groups that are lacking in certain performance characteristics

**The following Chelmsford Performing Ensembles participated in the festival and received the following awards:**

**CHELMSFORD HIGH SCHOOL:**

Concert Band, directed by Mr. Eric Linsner and assisted by Ms. Andrea Mejia: Bronze Medal  
Symphonic Band, directed by Mr. Eric Linsner: Medal of Merit  
Orchestra, directed by Ms. Kristin Neves: Gold Medal

**McCARTHY MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus, directed by Ms. Gretchen Preneta: Silver Medal  
7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra, directed by Ms. Kristin Neves: Gold Medal

In addition, the MICCA Executive Board, in collaboration with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is extremely pleased to announce that on Saturday, April 15, 2006, Symphony Hall has been made available as a performance venue for selected Gold Medal instrumental and choral ensembles.

**The Chelmsford High School Orchestra and McCarthy Middle School Orchestra will be performing at Symphony Hall on April 15<sup>th</sup> as a result of their Gold Medal ratings.** Times have not been announced at this time.

For more information, please contact Mr. Michael M. LaCava, Fine and Performing Arts Coordinator for the Chelmsford Public Schools at the above address, e-mail, and phone number.