



Recent Stars of “Jersey Boys” Make Saint Viator Sing

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Dr. Richard Holba (second from left) belts out the lyrics to “Twist and Shout” with the stars of *Under the Streetlamp*, (left to right) Christopher Kale Jones, Michael Ingersoll, Shonn Wiley and Michael Cunio.

A dentist from Chicago’s south suburbs found himself front and center, sharing the stage with recent stars of “Jersey Boys” earlier this month at their show, *Under the Streetlamp*, at Saint Viator High School.

Dr. Richard Holba was the lucky winner of the “Sing with the Stars” raffle, which resulted in him joining the cast on stage, singing backup with them as Michael Cunio, who played Tommy DeVito in “Jersey Boys,” sang “Twist and Shout.”

Their rendition drew the sold out audience onto their feet, singing along and dancing in the aisles with the singers and their seven-piece combo.

“I had no idea what was going on,” Holba said afterwards. “I thought it might be a set up.”

It wasn’t. Guests at the performance all were entered into the raffle, just by purchasing their ticket. In order to have their names withdrawn, they had to purchase them back, in a reverse raffle format. Apparently, Holba didn’t get the memo.

Nonetheless, he scampered up on stage without any arm twisting. He quickly caught on to the rhythm of the choreography and didn’t back down when given a microphone to sing his backup lyrics. “I played clarinet and saxophone in high school, but other than that I have no musical background,” says Holba, who practices general dentistry in Orland Park.

He was one of more than 750 guests in attendance at the show, which was sponsored by Saint Viator’s Parents’ Club and Patrons of the Arts. Its proceeds were earmarked for fine arts programs at the school and tuition assistance.

Guests started their night in the Boler Center for a cocktail reception, during which Saint Viator’s award-winning jazz band performed. The evening’s stars were so impressed with their music, they offered them their reserved seats to see the show.

Cunio commended the audience for their support of the arts and tuition assistance, adding that he and his co-stars were the recipients of that kind of community scholarship and support.

“Your support of the arts — and of live music in your community — cannot be understated,” Cunio said as he spoke to the audience. “And can we talk about how incredible that [jazz] band was?”

Saint Viator guests heard music that ranged from “I Wonder Why,” “Blue Moon” and “Sh-Boom” in the opening set, to a Four Seasons medley, that included “Candy Girl,” “Stay” and “Workin My Way Back To You.”

The Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president, described the electrifying night as one of the culminating events of the school’s 50th anniversary.

“This has truly been a magical night,” he said, “and one that has allowed us to celebrate with our entire the Saint Viator community.”