



The Halls are Alive with “The Sound of Music” at Saint Viator

January 26, 2012



The Von Trapp children expel their fears of the thunderstorm by singing with Maria, played by senior Molly McMahon of Arlington Heights (back right). (Photo by senior Chris Santucci)

After 45 years, Saint Viator High School’s theater department knows what it takes to mount a successful musical: lots of energy and talent from its students, as well as attention to detail in providing the setting.

Look for plenty of both in “The Sound of Music,” which opens at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the school’s Jeuck Auditorium at 1213 E. Oakton Street in Arlington Heights. Performances continue at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4, 10 and 11, and at 1 p.m. Feb. 5 and 12.

Nearly 200 students are involved in the show --- making it the single largest co-curricular activity at the school --- with 160 cast members divided into alternate casts, 20 students in the orchestra pit and another 20 providing technical support.

Audience members will find themselves immersed in a pre-World War II Austria right from the first note, when the Sisters in the Nonnberg Abbey sing their morning vespers in Latin.

Later, they will feel the mounting pressure by the threatening Nazi officers, wearing costumes sewn from authentic fabric used by the Third Reich that was confiscated by the Allies in 1945.

Seniors Sarah Castaldi of Prospect Heights and Molly McMahon of Arlington Heights share the role of Maria, the free-spirited postulant who leaves the security of the Abbey to fill in as a governess for a widower and his seven children.

“She’s so much fun to play, because she can be goofy and animated, even if she’s supposed to be conservative and reverent,” says Castaldi, who has appeared in the musical every year. “I’ve dreamed of playing her ever since I was a little girl.”

McMahon makes her second appearance in a Saint Viator musical after appearing as Golde in last year’s “Fiddler on the Roof.” Formerly immersed in golf, basketball and soccer, McMahon went on to win the school’s spring 2011 variety show singing “My Immortal,” by Evanescence.

She plays opposite another athlete, Jack Kellner of Elk Grove Village, who also made his first musical appearance last year. He shares the part of Capt. Georg von Trapp with senior Danny Wolfe of Arlington Heights, who began his musical career as a freshman, playing the part of Baby John, in “West Side Story.”

Kellner was an all-conference linebacker for the Lions, but he found his voice last year in “Fiddler.” This year, he tries to harness the emotions of the Captain, who falls in love with the young governess, all while holding off a Nazi officer’s commission.

“I think audiences will find the play somewhat different from the movie,” Kellner says. “I sing the song, ‘No Way to Stop It,’ about the Nazi movement to annex Austria. It propels him to break off his engagement with the Baroness and marry Maria instead.”

Tickets are \$10 and may be obtained by visiting: www.saintviator.com. Or call the box office, at 847-392-4050, ext. 349, or email ticket orders to: boxoffice@saintviator.com.