



*A Monthly Newsletter for Band, Orchestra & Choral Directors*

## Cruising the Seas



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### *Top 10 Student Destinations:*

1. Orlando, FL
2. New York City, NY
3. Washington DC
4. Atlanta, GA
5. Boston, MA
6. Chicago, IL

- Ensenada
- Catalina
- San Diego
- Bermuda
- Alaska
- Hawaii

Your cruise adventure offers superb dining, excellent service, fantastic entertainment and lots of shipboard activities. The fun never ends!

*Performing at Sea:*

Looking for a unique way to showcase your performing groups? All performing groups, including bands, orchestras, choirs, dance and theater, are eligible to perform onboard a Carnival Cruise Line as well as in many exotic Ports of Call. Performing groups have the unique opportunity to enhance their cruise experience in two different ways.

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2. Your group can participate in the “Festivals at Sea” program and have an adjudicated performance and clinic onboard the ship. *(A group minimum of 50 is required for groups electing an adjudicated festival performance).*

For more information about cruising and/or performing at sea as well as specific 2011 dates, pricing and forms, please call our sales team at **800-774-7337** or email us at [info@kaleidoscopeadventures.com](mailto:info@kaleidoscopeadventures.com) . Please note: **Passports May Be Required.**

The time has never been better to book your group aboard the “Fun Ships” of Carnival Cruise Lines.

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## October Spotlight: Orlando

7. Historic Virginia/VA Beach
8. St. Louis, MO
9. Hawaii Cruises
10. Branson, MO

### ***Fun Fotos!***

These fun fotos are of the Pizitz Middle School Choir on their trip to New York City.



*The Pizitz Middle School Choir meeting Harry Smith of CBS' The Early Show.*



*Pizitz Middle School Choir, under the direction of Brent Coleman, performing at St. John the Devine Cathedral in New York City.*





*Kraken Roller Coaster at Sea World® Orlando*

Known as the “Theme Park Capital of the World,” Orlando has it all! Here, the world’s most amazing theme parks — Magic Kingdom®, Epcot®, Disney’s Hollywood Studios™ and Disney’s Animal Kingdom® Park at the Walt Disney World Resort; Universal Studios Islands of Adventure® and Universal Studios Florida® at the Universal Orlando® Resort; and SeaWorld® Orlando — come together with more than 90 other attractions to create one larger-than-life destination. Orlando provides more entertainment options than anywhere else on earth. Couple that with world-class restaurants, beaches, great weather and outstanding shopping, the magical fun and adventure your group will experience will be second to none.

Contact the **Kaleidoscope Adventures** sales team at **(800) 774-7337** to customize a complete travel package catered to your needs and educational objectives to Orlando.

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## **Instrumental Music: Achieving Good Tone Quality When Playing A Brass Instrument**



Achieving good tone quality when playing a brass instrument consists of the conscientious application of many physical factors. Training the embouchure, tongue, throat, diaphragm, air column, etc. certainly enables the musician to perform more



*Pizitz Middle School Choir in a Broadway Masterclass.*



*Pizitz Middle School Choir taking the ferry out to Ellis Island to see the Statue of Liberty.*

**Want to see your music ensemble in our newsletter? Send us your photos to:**

[steve@kaleidoscopeadventures.com](mailto:steve@kaleidoscopeadventures.com)

efficiently, from low to high and from loud to soft. Oftentimes brass players usually believe that they must literally blow the sounds out of their instrument to achieve good tone quality. However, this is a common misconception.

According to Fred Fox, author of *Essentials of Brass Playing*, “The tone of a brass instrument can be pleasant, or it can be unpleasant – either too dull or too edgy. An analogy can be drawn with a stereo. If you turn off all the highs the sound will be dull and tubby. If you turn off all the lows, leaving only the extreme highs, the same sound will be thin and edgy. A mixture containing both highs and lows gives a more satisfactory sound.”

Mr. Fox gives examples of what to do in achieving good tone quality. He recommends playing a note in the middle register using the extreme “ee” position (the note will sound thin) and the extreme “aw” position (the note will sound dull). To achieve good tone quality, he suggests to “start the same note again. As you sustain the note vary the tongue position from “ee” to “aw” and find a position midway between the extremes that sounds best to you. The note is now in focus.” A good analogy would be to think of yourself giving a power point presentation and focusing the projector in and out until you reach the optimum focused position.

It is possible for the student musician to produce good tone quality on any brass instrument simply by adjusting the tongue position. Remember to profess to your students to use a warm air-stream when trying to accomplish this task. By adopting the above-mentioned techniques as suggested by Fred Fox, a well-centered tone can be achieved on any brass instrument.

Fox, Fred, *Essentials of Brass Playing*, Volkwein Bros., Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1974): 11 – 12.

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## **Choral Music: How to Choose the Correct Repertoire for a Festival or Contest**



One of the most perplexing mistakes choral teachers make when choosing repertoire for a festival or contest is that they don't choose music that showcases the strengths of their choir. Oftentimes, many directors choose music that their students like. This should not be the only reason in selecting repertoire for a festival or contest though. Keep in mind that you must choose musical selections that you know your students can successfully perform. If, for example, you have a strong soprano section, make sure you include literature that caters to a strong melodic line that falls within their voice range. If you have a somewhat weak vocal section within your choir (i.e.: altos), search for music wherein that voice part plays a minor role. Also, do your homework! Dianna Jarvis, writer for *Texas Sings*, states, "Consider selecting contest pieces that other choral directors have had success with in your region." She goes on to state, "call other successful directors you know for advice on selecting the right repertoire." You can also surf the web and browse through your state choral websites for information. Many provide archived contest programs from years past. This is a wonderful way to see what literature worked for other choirs' throughout the state.

Choosing the correct repertoire for a festival or contest can be a timely endeavor. However, by following the suggestions listed above, you will not only highlight the strengths of your choir, but most likely earn a good rating as well.

Dianna Jarvis, "Middle School/Junior High - Choosing Contest Repertoire," *Texas Sings*, Vol. 26, No. 2, Winter 2010.

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## **Dance: All the World is a Stage**

**by Greg Dotson of Kaleidoscope Adventures**



Student travel comes in many forms. At **Kaleidoscope Adventures** we focus on performance groups, including bands, choirs and orchestras. However, performance groups can be so much more. We realize that a performer can come in many shapes and sizes and may have a variety of interests and talents. There are also different specialties for each performer including dance, acting, singing, puppetry, gymnastics, and stage combat, to name only a few. We are happy to report that **Kaleidoscope Adventures** now offers exciting opportunities in many of the top student destinations that cater to these more specialized performance groups.

As a former dancer, originally from the Midwest, I realize the small town dream of being able to study in a “big” city with some of the best instructors in the world, or perform on a stage in front of an audience of adoring fans. The first time I saw a show on Broadway I was hooked. The thrill of a live audience, the chills you feel when the overture begins, and the energy each performer displays on stage is enough to bring me to my feet after every performance. Sadly, I did not experience this until I was well out of high school, college and beyond. During our current economic crisis, many families are choosing not to take an extended vacation to a major destination, but rather choose to stay closer to home in an effort to save a few dollars. With group travel, the cost of your trip can be significantly less than when you travel as an individual. As a teacher or trip sponsor you can make this trip a reality and provide this sensational experience for your students by contacting **Kaleidoscope Adventures** who will plan your specialized performance trip from beginning to end.

**Kaleidoscope Adventures** has recently created unique tour opportunities for groups from the world of dance and musical theatre. To be able to attend a Broadway show, to meet an actual Broadway performer or to take a Master Class taught by a professional working actor can create memories that will last a lifetime. Dancers will enjoy taking a tour of **Lincoln Center** with the opportunity to meet and ask questions of a professional ballet dancer at the **New York City Ballet** . Or, experience the chance to tour **Radio City Music Hall** and meet a world famous

Rockette. Master Classes are also available at the **Alvin Ailey Dance Company**, **Broadway Dance Center**, and **Steps on Broadway**. Actors can take one of several workshops offered through **Broadway.com/Theatre Direct** including “Musical Theatre Song & Movement”, “Business of the Business”, and “Step by Step”, all taught by a Broadway Performer. And, be sure to check out the latest Broadway shows including “Spiderman – Turn off the Dark”, “Memphis”, “In the Heights” or “Billy Elliott”.

There are also similar opportunities across the country in cities such as Chicago, Branson, and Orlando. In Chicago, you can take a Master Class with the **Joffrey Ballet**, and take in a Broadway caliber show playing in one of their beautifully ornate theatres. Attend a theatre workshop through **Broadway in Chicago**, or stay for a private meet and greet with members of the cast. In Branson, performing groups have the chance to attend a workshop prior to performing as the pre-show entertainment before one of their over 100 shows. In Orlando, who can resist the chance to go backstage at **Walt Disney World®** or **Universal Orlando® Resort** to attend a workshop, learn professional choreography, or perform in front of the thousands of guests that come to visit these theme parks every day? And, **Broadway Across America** brings the Best of Broadway to cities all over the country.

The possibilities are endless! At **Kaleidoscope Adventures** our mission is to “provide our clients with the opportunity to learn, have fun and experience the world from a new perspective through travel. It is our goal to treat every client in an honest and personalized manner as they embark on an adventure filled with value, education and priceless memories”. Through our specialized performance tours, we can work with you to provide an experience that will leave lasting impressions with your students and create memories they will cherish forever!

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## Testimonials

The team at Kaleidoscope Adventures works hard at providing our clients with the best possible service. Here are just a few testimonials from our many satisfied clients.

*“Entire trip handled very professionally, and with student safety and enjoyment as a high priority!”*

**- Tim Quigley, Vidalia High School**

*"Kaleidoscope Adventures made our music festival fun and enjoyable for all because it was so well organized."*

**- Leslie Patton, Flat Rock Middle School**

*"This was the trip of a lifetime!"*

**- Bob Chilton, Mount Airy High School**

*"This is the sixth or seventh trip I've run. Quite honestly, Kaleidoscope Adventures listened to everything we wanted and made things perfect. And our tour director, Robin was phenomenal!"*

**- Pete Clark, Dracut High School**

*"Kaleidoscope Adventures was wonderful to meet our group's needs. We were under a tight budget and they responded in meeting our needs. They gave us a great tour of Chicago."*

**- Allen Hadley, Bellefontaine High School**

**Kaleidoscope Adventures** can customize a complete travel package catered to your needs and educational objectives to any of our **40+ destinations**. We will assist you with hotel accommodations, transportation, attraction tickets, meals, sightseeing, shopping, special events, and unique performance venues plus more.

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