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MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

1,500 students to perform at 'One City One Sound' concert

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For The News-Dispatch

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MICHIGAN CITY — Once again, Michigan City Area Schools will come together to celebrate the holiday season and showcase talented, young vocalists and instrumentalists in the "One City One Sound" concert at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 in the high school gym.

Including the 1,500 students involved, nearly 4,000 people attend the free event, which has been held for the past six years. Performers are in fifth through 12th grades and include: elementary choirs, combined middle school beginning and intermediate bands and choirs; high school cadet, concert and symphonic bands; high school beginning boys and girls chorus, intermediate girls chorus, treble chorale, concert choir and City Singers; and the City Ringers handbell choir.

"The 'One City One Sound' concert is a wonderful way for us to showcase the music programs of Michigan City Area Schools, from elementary through high school," MCAS Director of Communications Betsy Kohn said. "It's a highlight of our school year – and we are grateful for the many individuals and departments that work behind the scenes to make sure things run smoothly for the performance and rehearsal.

"We couldn't make a program of this magnitude happen without our dedicated music teachers; our Transportation, Technology, Food Service, and Plant Planning departments; our school principals; the Michigan City Police Department; National Honor Society and JROTC students, music boosters and parent volunteers," she said.

In addition to the evening event, many of these departments are involved in the coordination of a morning rehearsal when all performers come together.

The concert is expected to last about one hour and 20 minutes.

"There are a lot of logistics that go on with this so that it comes off without a hitch," Kohn said.

This year, the concert will continue community outreach efforts with "This Season of Hope, Give a Little Soap."

The public is asked to bring in household cleaning items such as dish soap, window cleaners, antibacterial wipes, sponges and cleaning sprays as well as personal hygiene items, including facial tissues, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap and shampoo.

These will be donated to the Sand Castle Shelter, 1005 W. Eighth St.

Last year's efforts brought in 800 varieties of towels in a "Wipe Out Homelessness" campaign to support the Sand Castle Shelter. In 2011, 1,300 canned goods were donated at the concert for the Michigan City Salvation Army.

Elston Middle School Band Director Beth Andert said she hopes to see 1,500 household cleaning and personal hygiene items donated this year. Those who wish to contribute items and are unable to

attend the concert are welcome to bring them to Elston Middle School prior to the concert. Monetary donations to the Sand Castle Shelter also are welcome before and at the event.

She said Elston Middle School had been holding similar drives at its music concerts to support community organizations for several years, and she felt it could be accomplished on a much larger scale at the "One City One Sound" concert.

"'One City One Sound' is to showcase all the music opportunities we have in the district from elementary to high school, to show the community and the kids what's available for them as they move upwards through the grades," Andert said.

MCHS Department Chair and Band Director Quincy Ford said, "Each year, it's a good opportunity for parents, the city and the community to see the number of students involved in these music programs in our schools."

The "One City One Sound" concert will be broadcast live on Channel 98 educational TV and will stream live on the MCAS website at educateMC.net.

It will air live on Michigan City radio stations WEFM (95.9 FM) and WIMS (AM 1420) and replay over the holidays.

A sign language interpreter will be present at the event.



Photo provided A multitude of Michigan City Area Schools students will perform at the "One City One Sound" concert at the high school on Dec. 12.