

## *The Northwestern High School Choir*

Under the direction of Ms. Leona Lowery, who has been with NHS since 1997, the current NHS choir is a group of approximately 100 students, from Northwestern High School, in Hyattsville, MD, spanning students from grades 9-12. Students have the opportunity to study voice privately and music theory.

Within the general chorus, there have been smaller groups throughout the years. Of those groups, the Concert Choir, Advanced Chorus (Chamber Choir), and Gospel Choir, have all received numerous superior ratings at local, state, and national venues. The Choirs participate yearly in nationwide and international choral competitions, consistently bringing home multiple first place/Superior honors for nine of the last twelve years. The choir has received superior ratings from choral adjudicators from major universities and renowned choirs, at home and abroad. The Choirs have received first Place honors and Grand Champion Honors, at competitions in Chicago, Myrtle Beach, New Orleans, Baltimore, Atlanta, New York City, Williamsburg, and Toronto.

The group has an eclectic repertoire of classical standard, ethnic music, show choir, jazz and gospel music. The annual "Canta, Poesia y Comida" Latin festival, features traditional music of Spanish speaking countries and has been a favorite of our community since its inception three years ago.

The group has been featured on the University of Maryland T.V. network and has performed with the Towson University Chorus and the University of Maryland Chorus.

The group has performed two world premiers, both collaboration projects with the University of Maryland with music written exclusively for the choir by the late composer Christopher Patton. "Many Voices, One World" with original poetry by Northwestern students, and "Undisclosed Locations" with Northwestern's award winning Jazz Band.

The Northwestern Choirs have performed throughout the metro area in churches and recently at the Lincoln Theatre in the downtown area. They were the 2010 First Place \$5,000 winners of the Reid Temple iSing High School Choir Competition last November.

In August of 2011, the group was selected to tour South Africa in the "Ihlombe Festival" where they will perform with other choirs from around the world. 100 students, alumni and parents will travel in July of 2013 to sing 5 concert in 5 South African cities for this experience of a lifetime!

Many of the students from the Northwestern High School Chorus program continue on with careers in vocal performance and as music educators and professional musicians.

Ms. Lowery's goal is to continue a legacy of joyful singing.