

# Glee Club to join LCSO for Family Pops Concert

By MATT CHRISTY For The News-Dispatch | Posted: Saturday, April 4, 2015 3:04 pm

La PORTE — On April 18, the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra will host its Family Pops Concert, presented by the Robert J. Hiler Family Foundation, at the La Porte Civic Auditorium.

For the first time, the Purdue Varsity Glee Club will be a featured guest performer at the concert.

"It's something I've been trying to do for years, to get them to come to La Porte," said Philip J. Bauman, musical director of the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra (LCSO). "Their musicality is first rate."

Bauman, who celebrates his 20th season with the LCSO, said scheduling conflicts have prevented this long-planned collaboration from happening for years, but now that it has finally come to fruition, he is very excited.

"He thought it was a great way to end the season," said LCSO Interim Executive Director Tim King, of Bauman bringing in the glee club. "He was impressed not only with their musicality, but their energy."

Bill Griffel, director of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club, said even though the club has never performed with the LCSO, they have worked with Bauman.

"(He's a) fantastic guy," said Griffel, adding he had been very accommodating to them. "He's an incredible musician and cares a lot about the programming."

Griffel has been the director of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club for seven years, traveling with the club across the nation as they perform 50 to 60 times a year, usually seven to eight times a month. The club consists of 53 students.

"It's an incredible group of students I work with," Griffel said. "(They're) talented and smart."

Recently the Purdue Varsity Glee Club performed over spring break in Florida. Not long before that, they performed in places like Indianapolis and Chicago. The glee club has even performed overseas, last May embarking on its 10th European tour.

"It's a positive experience for them – to meet people they've never met before and be places they've never



Glee Club

The Purdusirs, a leadership group of juniors and seniors, are among the members of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club. The club will perform with the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra on April 18.

been before," Griffel said.

During the concert, the club will perform several numbers with the LCSO, including brand new arrangements from the musicals "West Side Story" and "Les Miserables" along with Frank Sinatra's "Come Fly with Me."

Griffel said the club also will perform a variety of numbers on their own, including a selection of Broadway, classical and jazz numbers.

Also featured in the Family Pops Concert will be the LCSO Children's Chorus, composed of second through fifth grade La Porte County students. The Children's Chorus, directed by Matthew Nelson, will perform "Over the Rainbow" with the glee club.

"Any time you perform with a symphony, it will create excitement," Griffel said. He added, however, the students are seasoned veterans with tons of performances under their belts.

As the last concert of the season for the orchestra, King said he hopes to continue the good turnout he saw at the March concert. Table seating for the April concert has already sold out, which King said hasn't happened in awhile.

"It's been a good season," Bauman said. "It's an exciting time to bring our season to a conclusion."

Both Bauman and King hope to end the season with a bang. The popular Pops Concert is set as the farewell until the new season kicks off Sept. 12 with the 10th anniversary of Hoosier Star. King did leave the door open for possible concerts over the summer, but at this time had nothing to announce.

The LCSO Family Pops Concert will be at 7:30 p.m. April 18 at the Civic Auditorium in La Porte. Table seating has already sold out but balcony seating is still available with tickets at \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors.

Tickets can be purchased at the orchestra's website – [www.lcso.net](http://www.lcso.net) – or by calling 219-362-9020. Tickets also can be purchased at La Porte Savings Bank, Roxy Music and L.R. Men's Clothier & Tuxedos.