WHS presents ... ‘The Sound of Music’

Veteran performers Amani Rogers, Ryan Young and Michael Devore will play leads in the upcoming performance of “The Sound of Music” set to premiere tomorrow.

A Wheatmore senior, Devore (Max Detweiler) has appeared in numerous productions including Les Miserables, Into the Woods, Crazy Town, 39 Steps and Much Ado About Nothing. Also a senior, Rogers, who plays Maria, is an active member of the cultural arts department with participation in marching band, honors choir, All-County and All-State chorus, in addition to Wheatmore’s musicals. She has participated in four musicals, including Les Miserables, Into the Woods and Beauty and the Beast.

Opposite Rogers is Young in the role of Captain Georg von Trapp, who has appeared in numerous Wheatmore productions, of which his favorite was Much Ado About Nothing. If the Mother Abbess seems familiar, that’s because she is played by Wheatmore High School graduate Alexandra Church, now a third-year undergraduate student at UNC School of the Arts. Perhaps her most memorable role at Wheatmore was that of Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (2013).

The school has put together a musical each spring since it opened in 2009, said chorus teacher Sarah Downey. This year’s production features the work and talents of more than 30 Wheatmore students and many parent volunteers, in addition to support from several faculty members and the Wheatmore administration team.

During one of the final rehearsals, Amy Beusse set in the audience with a script in her hand. Beusse, who played the role of Marta in a 1984 production of The Sound of Music at High Point University, has contributed countless hours of meticulous care.

Wheatmore High School cultural arts students make up the majority of cast but the invitation is extended to all Wheatmore students who want to participate.

“I feel that this year’s musical is a little more challenging than anything we have done in the past,” said Downey. “There are some big shoes to fill because the show is so well known and so well loved.”

The Sound of Music performances are at 7 p.m. Friday, April 28 and at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 29. A 2 p.m. matinee performance will be held Sunday, April 30. Tickets are $10 for adults and $8 for students.

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