

Ross junior to take his violin skills on European tour

Sheri Trusty 9:37 a.m. EDT August 28, 2016



Josh Recker was asked to join a tour of Europe next summer as a member of the 2017 Ohio Ambassadors of Music honor orchestra. The group will travel to seven countries. To raise money for the cost of the trip, Recker is asking local churches to allow him to perform a couple of songs during services in exchange for a freewill offering.(Photo: Sheri Trusty/Correspondent)

FREMONT - A very talented young musician and Ross High School junior has been chosen to participate as a violinist in the 2017 Ohio Ambassadors of Music program.

As a member of the Ohio Ambassadors of Music honor orchestra, Josh Recker will travel with the group on a tour of Europe next year.

Students are nominated for the program based on their levels of musicianship, leadership and character. Josh was nominated by retired Ross orchestra teacher Tom Ziebold.

“I nominated him because he has been doing very well at violin. He has studied privately since fifth grade. He has a passion for music,” Ziebold said.

Josh took private lessons with Tom’s sister, Barbara Ziebold, for about the past five years.

“I wasn’t surprised he was chosen for the program,” Barbara said. “He’s quite a good player. He’s part of the Terra Chamber Strings Ensemble, which includes talented high school students and professional players, so he’s able to keep up with that.”

In addition to playing with the Terra group, Josh is also a violinist with the Ross orchestra and a euphonium player with the Ross marching, jazz, pep and symphonic bands. His mother, Rebekah Recker, recognized talent in Josh as soon as he began playing violin.

“About three months into it, we decided he was doing pretty well, and he’s been taking private lessons ever since,” she said.

Members of the Ohio Ambassadors of Music orchestra will begin practices at Bowling Green State University in January, and they will attend a three-day camp in June. Sometime mid-summer, the group will head to Europe where they will tour and perform in England, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy and Germany.

Students will have one day to tour each country and one day to perform before traveling to the next location. Among other highlights, the group will visit London and Paris. Josh said there is not one place in particular he is looking forward to visiting.

“They’re all new experiences. I’ll take them as I go. They told us we will be seeing the Matterhorn for sure,” he said. “I think this is a pretty cool idea. It’s something I will really enjoy.”

Josh must raise \$6,000 for the trip’s expenses. To do so, he is offering to perform at local churches in exchange for a freewill offering, and he is planning an upcoming recital with Carrie Wallick, assistant band director at Ross. The date for the concert has yet to be determined.

A Go Fund Me account has been set up to raise funds as well. The account can be found at www.gofundme.com/violinambassador.

The European trip and the honor of participation in the Ohio Ambassadors of Music orchestra are the result of years of hard work.

“I’ve been teaching him for at least five years. He’s one of my best students, and he’s very motivated. It’s nice to have him come in and be prepared for the lessons,” Barbara said. “There are very few students in this area that would be deserving of such an honor.”

For information on scheduling Josh Recker for a church performance, email Rebekah Recker at hafertimeacres@gmail.com.

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