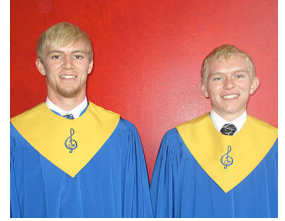


The University of Nebraska at Lincoln hosted the state's finest high school musicians last week. Students from all over the state were participating in 2013 All State Band, Choir, Orchestra or Jazz Band which is sponsored by the Nebraska Music Educators Association.



Collin Swedberg and Landon Swedberg of Wallace High School were among the 440 students selected to sing in the All State Choir which was directed by André Thomas, the director of choral activities and professor of choral music at Florida State University. Mr. Thomas is not only a nationally known choir director he is also a very well known composer and arranger.

Being selected to perform in one the all state groups is the highest music honor offered to a student. This was Collin's first year to be in the choir and Landon's third year; an accomplishment that only 22 other students in the All State Choir achieved.

Students in the choir began rehearsing Thursday evening, throughout the day on Friday and Saturday morning before their performance Saturday evening.

The choir had the opportunity to meet the young composer Jake Runestad who composed the contemporary piece that the choir sang on the program so the students were able to learn more about the piece and how it came about.

The choir ended the concert by performing "Do, Lord, Remember Me," a piece arranged by their director. The gospel arrangement brought the entire audience at the Lied Center to their feet for an exciting ending to a very memorable performance for the students.