

# Krueger to be represented at Carnegie Hall

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Each school year, Shirley Allen, chorus teacher at Krueger Middle School, selects students to audition for the Middle School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. One student, Michael Lakin, an eighth-grade student, was selected to participate in this year's program. He will have the opportunity to tour the sights of New York City as well as practice and perform under master conductors with students from across the country. Michael was asked to write about this experience:

Last school year, I heard that my choir teacher was thinking about having me try out for Carnegie Hall. I was interested, but I didn't think I was up for it.

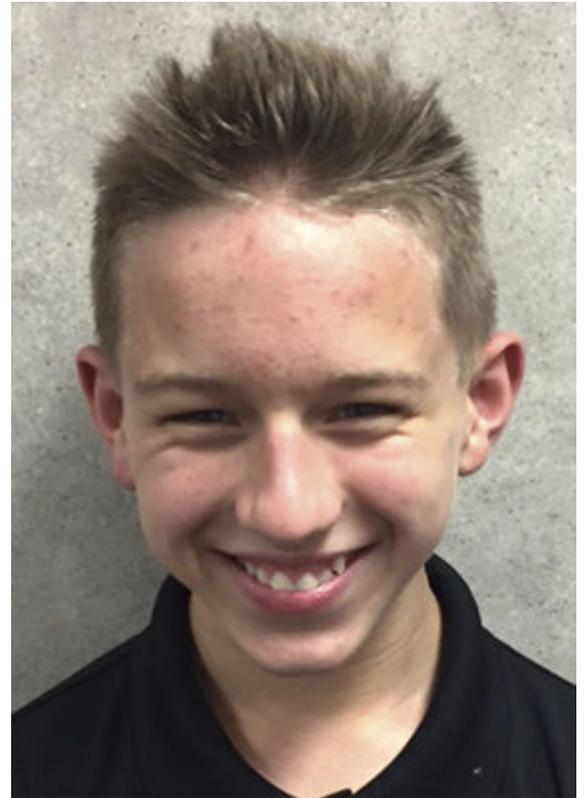
When I talked to someone else who went the year before, I decided I wanted to go. So, I tried out in about mid-December. I had to choose which song I would audition with and I chose an old shaker song from 1830's Pennsylvania called Simple Gifts. We had the band teacher record me singing it and put it on a CD. We sent it in. Then, the long waiting process began the day we mailed the audition to New York.

On March 17, the day the email would come through and tell me whether I was accepted, I asked my seventh-period teacher if I could go and check my email. Just as I scooted back to her desk, Ms. Allen walks in the room. She seemed quite happy. Then she walked up to the side of my desk and said, "Oh, by the way, you made it to Carnegie Hall!"

Absolutely elated, I said, "Oh my! I really did?" Miss Allen announced to the class that I had made it and they applauded. I got texts congratulating me from family friends, too.

Recently I asked someone who had also gone to Carnegie two years ago about her experience. She said there are three things I must remember. First, nights are short and days are long. Second, eat constantly so you don't get tired and drink lots of coffee. And third, always have a bottle of water with you no matter what time of day or where you are. So I'm pretty confident that as long as I can stay awake while I'm there I should be good to go.

When I get to New York in June, I will have five hours of rehearsing every morning for four days and about six hours a day to explore New York. Participating students get the opportunity to go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and take a ferry tour of The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Also, we get a backstage tour



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Michael Lakin In the Middle

of Radio City Music Hall and a choice between a backstage tour of Lincoln Center or Carnegie hall. That will all followed up by a very long day of performing at Carnegie Hall.

Michael Lakin is an eighth-grader at Krueger Middle Schools. In the Middle is a regular column produced by MCAS middle school students.