

Transcription of Podcast Episode 364: Sacred Heart Children's Choir

SPEAKERS

Elena Pineda, Bob Furring, Kari Middleton, Elyse Hendrix, Madison Mead

Note: This transcription was computer-generated and may contain typographical errors.

Bob Furring 00:09

Good afternoon Shadow Hills Bob furring here. And we have a special program today that I think you're gonna enjoy. Our local choir at Sacred Heart church has been invited to sing at the Vatican this Christmas time, and they are going to tour Italy and sing at the Vatican. And so this is gonna be a multi-layered podcast. The first person I'm going to interview is Elena Pineda. Lena, welcome to the podcast. And how long have you been at Sacred Heart? And how long have you been the choir director?

Elena Pineda 00:51

I've been the music teacher and choir director for 22 years at Sacred Heart School.

Bob Furring 00:56

22 years. Oh, my God. So you've got people all over the valley. You've got that coming back to That's right. To see. That's great. So how did this happen?

Elena Pineda 01:07

Well, as far as our trip goes, we did this back in 2019, the same dates, we left the day after Christmas. And that was in 2019. And we were there to ring in the new year of 2020. And we miss COVID by just a very few weeks. Yeah, we were truly blessed. And we had a wonderful trip. And we liked it so much that since everything has quieted down, things are getting back to normal. I talked to MCI the company that we use, Music Celebrations, and talked about was it possible to go back again. And we originally auditioned for the Vatican. Our last trip, we sang also at the Tomb of St. Francis of d'Assisi in Assisi. And we sang at Santa Croce, which is the oldest medieval church in Florence. This time will be, God willing, we will be going in singing again for mass at the Vatican. And then we will also be going to Florence to a different church. And then we will, at that one, we are going to be doing a concert. And we will also be doing a concert in Venice.

Bob Furring 02:24

Awesome. Awesome. So in total, how long will you be there for?

Elena Pineda 02:29

Eight days.

Bob Furring 02:30

Eight days.

Elena Pineda 02:31

Yes.

Bob Firing 02:32

Well, that's truly special. And you're going to be truly memorable. So you must have some kids who went to have the three years or four years ago. What what did they tell you were their favorite memories of the trip.

Elena Pineda 02:45

They of course, they were in awe of of singing at the Vatican. Because what what we did was we went to the catacombs that morning. And then we went through the Vatican Museum, which is really, really incredible. And we came through the Sistine Chapel. And when you exit that you enter right into St. Peter's. And a few minutes later, we were putting on our choir gowns and we were being led by the officials at the Vatican the back way to the choir loft, getting ready for for mass. And so it's one of my favorite experiences. Another of mine was singing at the Tomb of St. Francis. That was really something.

Bob Firing 03:32

Unforgettable life experience.

Elena Pineda 03:35

Yes. And the kids just they loved everything. But they got so much out of it. Obviously, as Catholics, but they all even those that were not Catholic, told me that they got an awful lot of it just the the experience of doing something so incredible at their ages, something they'll never forget. Yeah. And the history, I try to prepare them ahead of time with a little history, little, little language. We learn a little bit of Italian so we can introduce ourselves in Italian and say some basic things. And then we also sample some Italian food sometimes. And we have guest speakers. This time, we're going to have couple of guest singers too, as well.

Bob Firing 04:17

Great, great. Well, this is a really special podcast and that I've got a couple of the girls who are actually going to be making the trip and doing the singing there. The first person I'd like to introduce is Elyse Hendrix. Elyse, welcome to the podcast.

Elyse Hendrix 04:32

Thank you.

Bob Firing 04:34

How old are you? And what grade are you in?

Elyse Hendrix 04:37

I'm 11 and I'm in fifth grade.

Bob Firing 04:39

Okay. And how long have you been singing in the choir?

Elyse Hendrix 04:42

For like one and a half years.

Bob Firing 04:45

And so I'm sure you're excited about going? Yeah. Is there anything in particular you're looking forward to seeing there?

Elyse Hendrix 04:53

I'm excited to sing at the Vatican.

Bob Firing 04:55

Yeah, yeah, that's great. Okay, and my second guest too is Madison Mead. Madison. Welcome.

Madison Mead 05:03

Thank you.

Bob Firing 05:04

And how old are you?

Madison Mead 05:06

11.

Bob Firing 05:06

You're also 11. And you've been you and Alisa been singing together for quite a while.

Madison Mead 05:12

Yes.

Bob Firing 05:13

Yeah. That's great. And so do you have any any special thing you're looking forward to over there?

Madison Mead 05:20

Excited to meet the Pope.

Bob Firing 05:22

You get to meet the Pope? Well, that's pretty exciting thing. And that and having real Italian pizza will probably be the two highlights of the trip. Okay, well, that's great. Thank you for sharing that with us. And one of the reasons that we're doing this is that not surprisingly, this trip has to be paid for. And to address that. I'd like to bring on Kari Middleton, Carrie, welcome to the podcast.

Kari Middleton 05:53

Thank you for having us. We really appreciate it. Thank you.

Bob Firing 05:57

So how many people are going to be going?

Kari Middleton 05:59

I understand just over 100. About 134 travelers, with 32 choir members or choir kids.

Bob Firing 06:08

Yeah, that's, that's a big group. And you're gonna be over there for a week.

Kari Middleton 06:13

Right?

Bob Firing 06:14

Okay. And so what what tell us all about the fundraisers that you're going to have to help pay for them?

Kari Middleton 06:22

Thank you. Yes, we're having a big Italian, six course wine pairing meal on May 3, Wednesday, May 3 at Cork & Fork at La Quinta. Tickets are \$200 per person, but a large percentage of that goes back to the kids. We thought it was serendipitous to have Italian wine pairing here in the desert with our Italian trip. So we're looking forward to that. That's one of our big fundraisers before summer starts. And then we've been selling See's Candies, and we've also been blessed with a GoFundMe page as well.

Bob Firing 06:56

Great. Great. Okay, well, this sounds like a special trip and Shadow Hills, you have an opportunity to participate in it. So I hope this message brings out a lot of diners. And a lot of people satisfy their sweet tooth with See's Candies. And talk about the GoFundMe page. What's the address? And how would people find it? You know,

Kari Middleton 07:21

if they search Sacred Heart Children's Choir, in Palm Desert, it should come up. And it's been shared pretty widely in the community. It's also on the KESQ Channel 3 page as well, the link. And there's also a donation option through the Cork & Fork dinner venue tickets as well. So we have a couple of different and frankly, if if nobody wanted to give in that manner, they could also write a check to the school for the choir as well.

Bob Firing 07:52

Checks still work.

Kari Middleton 07:53

Yep checks still work. Cash too, Yeah. But we appreciate the community's support. I mean, without it would be challenging for many of these families to go and this would make an incredible Christmas next year for them.

Bob Firing 08:07

They'll remember their whole lives, Well, thank you for coming in. Did I miss anything? Anything? You got? We pretty much covered it.

Elena Pineda 08:17

I think so. We will be going to to Rome, to Florence, and to Venice.

Bob Firing 08:25

Pretty special.

Elena Pineda 08:26

Yes.

Bob Firing 08:26

Pretty special trip. Okay. Well, thank you for coming in and telling us about it and we'll see you at Cork & Fork. And for the audience, thank you for your attention. Till next time, bye-bye!