

# AVMA Friends and Alumni Monthly Digest

February 2022

Hi everybody!

Well, it seems like it's been forever, but show choir is officially back, albeit masked up still. Hopefully you got a taste of it yesterday, either in person at Shepherd Hill or via the livestream, but if you didn't, read on. (Actually, read on anyway please. And thank you!)

Here's the latest and greatest in the worlds of AVM and AVMA:

**Live Competitions and Concerts Are Back!** AVM took to the stage three times in recent weeks.

- On Saturday January 15, the show choirs returned to the competition circuit at a scaled-down for 2022 Mill City Show Choir Festival in Lowell. All three show choirs were already in mid-season form, with FSTF and BTB pulling silvers and NBT earning a bronze against a tougher-than-usual scoring system.
- The following Wednesday, the music program was able to hold an in-person AVM Winter Concert at the Collins Center.
- And finally, yesterday, at the Central Massachusetts Show Choir Festival, the sophomores, freshmen, and other first-timers finally got to feel the positive energy that got so many of us hooked on show choir. At times the cheering and screaming approached NESCS levels of intensity. And check out these results:

- BTB and NBT finished 1-2 in the unisex division. That's right: **BTB Grand Champions at Shepherd Hill!** BTB nabbed Best Choreo, Best Vocals, Best Show Design, and Best Soloist for Anthony Morgante. NBT earned Best Costumes.



- **FSTF pulled a gold medal and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up in the Large Unisex,** behind only Grand Champion Waltham and Daniel Hand. Louis



Morrison also garnered Best Male Soloist and won a full ride to Show Choir Camps of America this summer!

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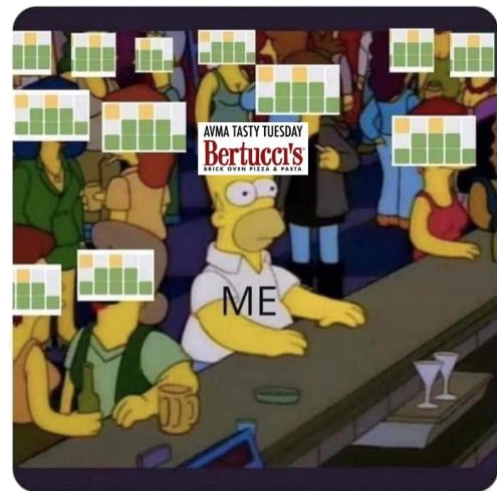
A recording of the livestream is up on YouTube to watch over and over again. Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZtY--PYJ5EzfFZjCTfgm-OVvDeFwKh8l>

BTB and NBT are in part 1 and FSTF is in part 2. Enjoy and GREAT JOB everybody!

**AVMA Arctic Blast Virtual Silent Auction.** While live performances so far have managed to go on despite Omicron, the same can't be said for the AVMA Arctic Blast. For the second year in a row, the adults weren't able to come together the last Friday in January to have fun and raise money for AVMA. Last year, we had a virtual Arctic Blast. This year, we decided to break things up a bit, with a virtual silent auction now and – fingers crossed! – an in-person social event later this spring, when the weather (and hopefully the Covid situation) is nicer. Back to the auction, where we had 25 gift baskets available, and **which raised nearly \$2900 for AVMA!** Thanks to all the families and local businesses who donated baskets and to everybody who bid them up!


**Tasty Tuesday This Tuesday Feb 8 at Bertucci's.** After a January break, the AVMA Tasty Tuesdays have returned, with the February Tasty Tuesday this coming Tuesday (Feb 8) at *\*any\** Bertucci's, so if you're not near Andover but are near a Bertucci's restaurant, you can participate! **All orders placed between 11 AM and 10 PM that use the promo code 882-822-966 will result in 15% of the order being donated back to AVMA!** If you're ordering in person, you can show the server the flyer attached to the bottom of this newsletter and they'll give credit where credit is due. Start carbo loading on Tuesday for Tantasqua on Saturday! More on that next.



**Upcoming Events.** Here are the dates we currently have circled on the calendar:

- Saturday Feb 12 – Tantasqua Show Choir Spectacular. Commemorate Abe Lincoln's birthday the way he would want, by screaming your face off for NBT, BTB, and FSTF at Tantasqua High School in Fiskdale, MA! **At press time, NBT is slated to take the stage at 9:30 AM, BTB right after them at 10, and then FSTF at 6 PM.** If memory serves, Tantasqua didn't have a livestream the last time we were there, but if that's not true or if they upped their tech game for 2022, we will share the livestream link wherever you typically find us on social media.

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- Fri-Sat Mar 18-19. NESCS 2022! It's back! We're currently looking at six middle school choirs on Friday evening and 18 high schoolers on Saturday. The wheels are already turning, with the expectation that AVMA will be called upon to assemble and mobilize after February break. **A specific call to AVM Alumni:** keep in mind that only the seniors (and their families) have experienced a NESCS first hand and know what it takes to make it a success. If you're in the area or will be for NESCS weekend and are interested, we would love for you to help out – every little bit will count!  

- Saturday Apr 2 – Waltham Eastern Show Choir Festival 2022. All we know for now is the date. Now you know it too!

We'll have more Tasty Tuesdays and likely a spring car wash. Once we have dates, times, and locations nailed down, we will share them with you.

That'll do it for this go-around. Let's wrap up with your monthly reminder of all these other ways to easily support AVMA:

- **Scrip/RaiseRight.** Scrip/RaiseRight is a fundraising program in which you purchase gift cards from any of hundreds of stores and businesses through them, and a percentage of the value of the gift cards get donated back to AVMA. The stores we're talking about are all the ones you've heard of: Starbucks, Apple, Best Buy, the Gap, Stop & Shop, Chili's, Panera, you name it. And **we're talking some pretty significant cash back percentages – 10%+ in many cases, with occasional promotions taking things as high as 20%.** Scrip/RaiseRight offers up a really easy way to support AVMA without really costing you any more than you were going to spend on purchases in the first place. And it's open to everybody!

To sign up for Scrip and RaiseRight, follow these instructions:

1. Go to <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login/Enroll> and use enrollment code **DLEE76C872773.**
2. Download the RaiseRight app on your smartphone.
3. Visit <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse> to see all the different vendors and the rebate percentages for each.



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- **AmazonSmile.** AVMA also participates in AmazonSmile. Similar to Scrip/RaiseRight, AmazonSmile is a super easy way to donate back to AVMA each time you make a purchase on Amazon. To set up AmazonSmile to benefit AVMA, [follow these instructions](#), and be sure to select Andover Vocal Music Association as the organization you want to support. Then, each time you buy anything on Amazon, .5% of the purchase price will be donated back to AVMA. It doesn't seem like a lot, but over time, with enough people participating, it adds up!
- **Links.** We rely primarily on social media to get the word out on happenings and events and to otherwise communicate with the rest of the community. So if you haven't done so already, please give a subscribe or a like or a follow to the:
  - **AVMA YouTube Channel:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGreFvbQIEKB\\_OrD7RLNY0g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGreFvbQIEKB_OrD7RLNY0g)
  - **Andover Vocal Music Association public Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/AHSVocalMusic>
  - **AVMA Twitter Account:** [https://twitter.com/andovervma\\_org](https://twitter.com/andovervma_org)

Please feel free to share this digest with any folks not on Facebook who you think would be interested in it. And if you (or they) would like to receive future Monthly Digests directly via email, please use this [Google Form](#) to share your name and addresses with us.

One final thanks for all of your support and continued interest in AVM – without it, who knows where the program would have wound up after the past couple of years. Until next time, stay safe and healthy, keep singing and dancing, and we'll catch you again next month!

The AVMA Board

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