



Hopatcong Borough Schools Press Release

Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.

Hudson Maxim's 1st Graders Take "A Musical Trip Around the World"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, May 29, 2018

Mr. Paul J. Saxton, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces

On Tuesday evening, May 22nd, the first graders of Hudson Maxim School took to the high school stage to showcase their talent in a concert entitled, "A Musical Trip Around the World". The concert highlighted each of 7 first-grade classes singing an individual song, as well as 6 group songs, a very special read-aloud, and an interpretive piece featuring the entire ensemble. Highlights included a beautiful student-read rendition of Mem Fox's book, "Whoever You Are"; "It's a Small World After All", complete with moving dolls from the famous ride; and a heartfelt tear-jerker finale "I Am A Small Part of the World". There was not a dry eye in the house as the concert concluded and the audience rose for a standing ovation!

Concert-goers cheered and clapped thunderously for Hopatcong's tiniest musicians, under the direction of Hudson Maxim music teacher, Mrs. Linda Blazier. Students were given the daunting task of memorizing music, choreography, and in some cases, lines to read to the entire audience introducing and giving background on each song that was performed. In every case, these performers rose to the occasion!

At the conclusion of the concert, students were gifted with a copy of the book which inspired the concert, thanks to the generosity of HEPTO. "When I first read this book, I was so inspired, and I knew I wanted to use it as a jumping-off point for our concert," Blazier said. "These children were 100% on board! The work that they all had to put in, learning songs in at least four different languages, as well as ASL in two cases, was truly remarkable. Their manners, performance, and behavior on-stage were nearly impeccable, and I truly could not be proud of them! My heart is so full!"

According to Mrs. Katherine McFadden, principal of Hudson Maxim School, "Mrs. Blazier masterfully built a concert using the book "Whoever You Are". Through the book and music, students were taught life lessons in tolerance and diversity. Mrs. Blazier and her students did an outstanding job and the lessons learned will last a lifetime!"

Congratulations to all of Hudson Maxim's performers, you are truly shining stars!

