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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hopatcong, NJ -

Title: Tri-M Music Honors, AP Music Theory and select HMS students attend Music/STEAM trip to Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City.

Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces -

On Monday, March 21, Tri-M Music Honors Students, AP Music Theory students and select middle school music students took a Music / STEAM field trip to the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City. The idea for the trip first came as an idea during an AP Music Theory class in October when students were learning about organ fugues of the 17th and 18th century. The lessons included the mathematical proportions and relationships of the pipes of an organ. After listening to organ music, Mr. Zimmermann showed pictures of pipes and cathedrals that house them and the students requested a trip!

The day started with a brief walking tour around the main campus of Columbia University where the students observed both the older and newer designs of the campus buildings, and even saw one of Rodin's castings of *The Thinker* located outside the Philosophy Building. After a short walk to the Cathedral, the students enjoyed a tour which covered the gorgeous architecture, different areas of the cathedral and various artistic displays in one of the world's largest cathedrals. The tour also included historical information about the cathedral, and how in partnership with the university the construction of the cathedral led to the development of Morningside Heights in New York City.

Following the tour, the students were led to the antique choir chairs at the altar for a midday organ recital. They were surprised when organist Ray Nagem invited the students to take turns coming into the cramped loft (accessed from a cool "secret door") while he played during the recital! Mr. Zimmermann had been in email contact with Mr. Nagem prior to the trip and they agreed that the organist would talk with the kids after, so the invite into the loft during the recital was a surprise! After the recital, the students were brought back to the choir room where Mr. Nagem answered questions from the students.

Mr. Zimmerman said that the trip was one of the most enjoyable of his career. The kids and chaperones all had a blast; no one wanted to leave, and they are all asking when they can come back. Among the fantastic comments about the trip, senior Ryan Taesler said "I enjoyed the incredible power of the pipe organ, and how being up in the loft during the music made it feel as if I was part of the music". Senior Brady Dougherty said "It was a religious experience, one that I'll never forget". Eighth grader Dante Mara said "when the organ played you could feel it go right through you". Teaching assistant Nancy Marinaro said "this was one of the most enjoyable days of my life!"







