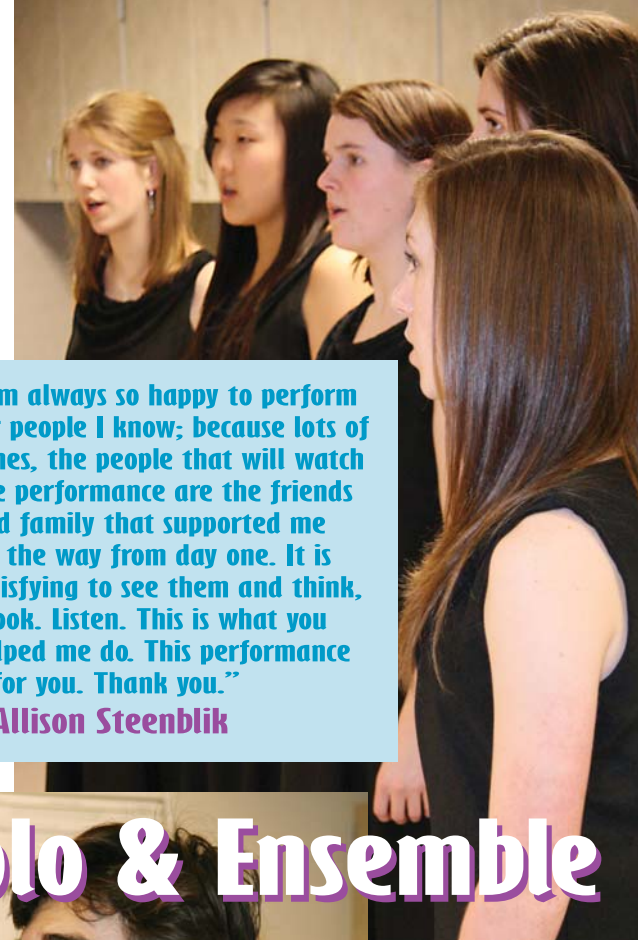


# The Next Stage

**How big performances feel to the students on stage**

"I want my students to gain a well-rounded exposure to the arts," says MS/US music teacher David Demand. "Solos are great preparation for public speaking and are confidence builders. What students learn on the stage and in choir all works together."

Here's what some of David's students thought of the recent Solo and Ensemble competition with musicians from across the Spokane area.



**"I'm always so happy to perform for people I know; because lots of times, the people that will watch the performance are the friends and family that supported me all the way from day one. It is satisfying to see them and think, 'Look. Listen. This is what you helped me do. This performance is for you. Thank you.'"**  
- Allison Steenblik



David Demand helped his musicians prepare then accompanied many of them at the competition

**"It's absolutely nerve racking in the few minutes before you perform, but the second the music starts something takes over and performing becomes your chance to tell the audience a story, whether it be through a difficult instrumental piece or a complex vocal piece."**  
- Ashley Van Curler

## Solo & Ensemble



**"I felt completely prepared. I had performed the music prior and sang it with emotion and even added a few embellishments. I discovered a certain self-assurance that I didn't know I had, and I'm ready to do even more competitions."**  
- Ben Bartels



**"Even against the top schools in our region, we still triumphed and stood out from the crowd. It was an exhilarating and rewarding experience, and I'm ecstatic for the opportunities to compete against the rest of the state!"**  
- Hayden Heftel



**"My friends from Saint George's were supportive of everyone auditioning for Solo and Ensemble and they were right there cheering and encouraging. It made the day so much more exciting."**  
- Emily Stratton

**On the Web**  
Hear them sing and see who's going to State at [www.sgs.org/arts/music](http://www.sgs.org/arts/music)

