Minnesingers perform across Ireland

BY JOSIE WELCH

Over April break, the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School (MVHS) choral group, the Minnesingers, made their biennial trip abroad, this year traveling to Ireland to perform in various historic venues and tour the country together. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the group’s first trip abroad since 2019. From formal concerts to breaking out into song and dance on the streets of Galway, the performance never stopped in Ireland.

The group included 31 singers and seven chaperones, and the group’s performances were directed by performing arts department chair and music teacher Abigail Chandler. For some students, including junior Ava McGee, their first trip abroad since the pandemic offered a chance to “break out into song and dance.” McGee and the Minnesingers put on a concert in St. Mary’s Cathedral in Kilkenny. Ava said that the audience at Kilkenny was shocked by the audience turnout. “It was the only venue that had more than 15 people. That was really appreciative, and it was such a positive space to perform. We were given a standing ovation,” she said. Senior Emmett Favreau was struck by the audience enthusiasm. “The audience there was overwhelming at times. Sophomore Ruairi Mullin agreed: “It’s important to be conscious of how we [as a school] are affecting the environment in our everyday activities. It can be easy to not think about it, but being conscious of how much water or electricity or plastic — even coming down to the utensils we use — everything we do has an impact on the environment,” Graham said. Annabelle addressed the small changes the school has made thus far. “We see a lot of smaller steps being taken. [Cafeteria staff] made the decision to remove the plastic water cups by the side of the water refill stations, offering reusable water bottles instead. I think that’s a great way to reduce our consump- tion and our waste,” she said. Annabelle added that an opportunity for large-scale change could potentially exist in the upcoming school renovation project. “[PVH] would like the new school to be carbon-neutral, and totally run on renewable energy. That’s the big picture sort of idea,” she said. The students would deny that thinking about how to create large-scale change can feel overwhelming at times. Sophomore PVE member Marya Lysa- way said, “You’re one person out of almost 8 billion people. Making progress really has to be carbon-neutral, and totally run on renewable energy. That’s the big picture sort of idea.” she said.