



## Finding Your Home At Walsh University



Photo Courtesy of Nadya Hudak.

BY: ABDULLAH ALESAM, STAFF WRITER

Embarking on the journey of higher education encompasses more than just textbooks and classrooms; it's about finding a haven that feels like home. In the heart of Canton, Ohio, Walsh University stands out not only as an academic institution but as a nurturing community that prioritizes the safety and well-being of its students.

1. Guardianship Beyond Campus Walls: At Walsh University, the concept of safety goes beyond the campus gates. A dedicated security team, available around the clock, becomes more than just personnel; they are the watchful guardians, ensuring a reassuring presence and immediate assistance in times of need.

2. Friendship Between the Campus and the Local Community: Canton, Ohio, becomes more than just a city; it's a welcoming neighbor. The harmonious relationship between local law enforcement and Walsh University transforms safety into a shared responsibility. Joint patrols and community outreach initiatives foster connections that go beyond mere safety measures.

3. Preparedness with a Personal Touch: Emergency response plans aren't just protocols at Walsh; they are a testament to the university's commitment to the safety and preparedness of its students. Regular drills and training sessions create a sense of shared readiness, ensuring that the Walsh family stands united in the face of adversity.

4. Illuminated Pathways and Watchful Eyes: Imagine a campus illuminated not just by lights but by a sense of security. Walsh University invests in well-lit spaces, eliminating shadows and creating an atmosphere where every corner feels like a safe space. Security cameras, strategically positioned, become not just observers but silent protectors, ensuring a watchful eye over the entire community.

5. Together We Stand Community Policing with a Heart: Beyond safety, Walsh University thrives on a sense of community. Community-oriented policing becomes more than just a strategy; it's a shared journey. Students actively contribute to a culture of safety through awareness campaigns, creating a united front against potential challenges.

6. A Shoulder to Lean On: Walsh University acknowledges that safety extends beyond physical well-being. Accessible counseling services and supportive groups create a safety net for emotional and mental health. It's not just about getting through university; it's about thriving in a caring environment.

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7. Evolving Together: At Walsh, safety is not a static concept but a commitment to constant growth. The administration actively seeks feedback, listens to the pulse of the student body, and adapts security measures to changing needs. It's a university that evolves with its community, ensuring that every student's voice is heard. In essence, choosing Walsh University is more than just choosing a place for education; it's finding a home that prioritizes security and well-being. With a watchful eye, a community that cares, and a commitment to growth, Walsh University becomes more than an institution—it transforms into a haven where every student is not just a number but a cherished part of the Walsh family.

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Photo Courtesy of Alyssa Cocchiola.

## Chorale Invited to Perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

BY: ALYSSA COCCHIOLA, STAFF WRITER

The Walsh University Chorale has been invited to perform at the National Memorial Day Choral Festival in Washington D.C. to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the liberation of France by The United States Air Force and The American Veterans Center. The festival will take place May 24-27, 2024.

“Our students would perform as part of a 300-voice mass choir at the Kennedy Center, along with the United States Air Force’s Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Craig Jessop, Former director of the Tabernacle choir at Temple square, also known as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir,” said Dr. Britt Cooper, director of Choral Activities at Walsh University.

Dr. Craig Jessop is also the former Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Music Programs and former Director of the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants in Washington D.C. He has served the festival as the Artistic Director since 2011.

Cooper continued, “In addition, our choir would sing for a vigil mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception, a tremendous honor for our students and our university.”

The tour will also include walking tours of various memorials, a visit to the Smithsonian Museum, a tour of the Arlington Cemetery, and attending the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown

Soldier, according to the trip itinerary.

“I am going on the Washington, D.C. trip, and I am most excited about performing at the Kennedy Center. I think touring is so beneficial for choirs not only because it is an amazing bonding experience for the members, but also because it provides such incredible musical and cultural opportunities,” said Marina Foulk, a junior at Walsh University and a third-year member of the chorale.

The choir is currently raising money to support the students in the chorale.

“While our students will pay for a portion of the cost for this opportunity, we hope to fundraise the majority of that cost to make the experience available for as many of our students as possible,” Cooper explained.

The chorale hopes to raise \$15,000 to support this goal. Funds are raised through the site [givecampus.com](https://www.givecampus.com), allowing students to share the link. The fundraiser ends Dec. 31.

Kael Shobel, a four-year chorale singer, shared his excitement for the upcoming tour.

“I’m most excited to have yet another touring experience with a very talented group of singers. I think touring for a choir is beneficial for multiple reasons: firstly, it’s advertising a talented group of singers that can perform for other people and other events, which provides more opportunities for us to tour. Secondly, if people hear about us travelling to places like Washington D.C. as well as where we’ve toured in the past, like Nashville, it may encourage them to join us for choir in the future, which is

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always appreciated,” he said.

Shobel is pursuing a minor in music at Walsh and credited his involvement in the chorale for that decision.

“I think chorale has helped my learning by giving me something to work at and get better with, while also being a break from the normal monotony of schooling,” he concluded.

Repertoire for the 13th annual National Memorial Day Choral Festival will include traditional patriotic songs, such as God Bless America, The Promise of Living, Hymn to the Fallen, Salute to the Armed Forces, and more, as outlined by the Kennedy Center.

“I think that the thing I’m most excited for would have to be performing,” Baleigh Burnham, a student at Walsh and a second-year member of the chorale, shared.

Burnham has performed at the National Memorial Day Choral Festival in 2017 with the non-profit organization Summit Choral Society’s performance choir. She currently is undedicated on whether she will attend this year’s upcoming tour but shared, “I hope to go!”

Burnham recalled her experience with the 2017 festival: “The feeling of performing somewhere like D.C is unreal. Having over 100 people around you and the sound that is produced radiates through the whole building and that is truly an out-of-body experience.”

Maggi Kreiner, a chorale singer who also attended the festival with Burnham in 2017, shared, “Collaborating with so many talented musicians was such a special experience that I appreciate to this day. The Memorial Day Festival was very unique when compared to other travel performances I have taken part in. There is something profoundly impactful about honoring our country and veterans with hundreds of other individuals from all walks of life. I made a friend from South Dakota through the festival that I still talk to today!”

Foulk reflected on the impact choir has had on her learning.

“Being in Chorale has absolutely benefitted my learning,” Foulk said. “Singing has always been a major stress-reliever for me, ever since I first joined choir in the sixth grade. Making music with my friends and classmates is

just something I love to do so much, and it allows me to de-stress so that when I sit down to do my work later, I am ready to put in my best effort!”

Kriener shared similar sentiments, noting that the chorale has always provided her with a safe space to decompress.

“No matter what I have going on in my other classes or personal life, chorale is always there to cheer me up. With that said, having a dedicated space to express myself creatively allows me to have a renewed focus on my studies after practice,” she explained.

The Chorale at Walsh University meets twice a week to prepare for tours and upcoming performances on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15-5:45 p.m. in the Birk Center for the Arts. The choir is currently preparing for the upcoming tour, spring performances, and their winter concert, which will take place Dec. 8 and 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Our Lady Perpetual Help Chapel.

“I truly believe that the most beneficial part about touring is motivation,” Burnham concluded. “When it comes to preparation, you want to be at 100% at all times. Pushing yourself benefits your choir which the more prepared you are, the more fun you can have, because you know that your choir is prepared. When you get [to the choral festival] however, hearing how other choirs sound and how their sound blends makes you want to work even harder. Overall, every second is a learning experience.”

The performance at The Kennedy Center for the festival will occur May 26, 2023 in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at 3:00.

“Please consider giving to this cause and making this once-in-a lifetime opportunity a joyous reality for our students. Thank you for supporting our choral program and all the arts at Walsh University,” Cooper concluded.

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## Snacks For Santa: Christmas Baking

BY: HAILEY METZGER, STAFF WRITER

As an avid baker, Christmas time is definitely one of my favorite times. This is prime season for baking cookies of all kinds. Every year, my personal list of Christmas cookies to bake gets progressively longer and is ever-growing. Chocolate chip cookies are obviously a necessity.

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I also bake fun-shaped sugar cookies, candy cane cookies, chocolate crinkles, raspberry lingers, thumbprint cookies, snowballs, and more. To me, there is nothing better than being in the kitchen on a cold, snowy day, making cookies, and feeling the warmth of the oven.

I grew up with this tradition every year when I was young baking with my mom. When it comes to family holidays, she always baked sugar cookies and decorated them with her homemade buttercream frosting. We also would help shape the candy cane cookies, which were my Aunt's favorite, coat the snowballs in sugar, and of course, eat any leftover cookie dough not enough to make a whole cookie. On the night of Christmas Eve, we would pick a Christmas plate and lay out some cookies on it for Santa alongside a Santa mug with milk. We always left out carrots for the reindeer too, they also needed a snack. We also had a little bag of Reindeer dust, a mixture of magical feed that when thrown onto your lawn, would attract the reindeer and allow them a treat.

For traditional chocolate chip cookies, we always used the recipe printed on the label of Nestle Tollhouse chocolate chips. My mom would add a little bit of peppermint extract to half of the dough and dye them green to make mint chocolate chip cookies, which are one of my favorites. A tip I have picked up along the way is after you roll the dough into small balls, press a few chocolate chips into the balls, so you have picture-perfect chocolate chip cookies as a result.

If you want a recipe a little less involved, you can use this recipe I have adapted from one I found online. I call it my "pancake chocolate chip cookies". Your dry ingredients are mainly from your store-bought pancake mix.

#### Pancake Chocolate Chip Cookies

2 cups of pancake mix, 1 cup brown sugar, 1 stick of soft butter, 1 egg

Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown around the edges.



## THE WALSH UNIVERSITY *Spectator*

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