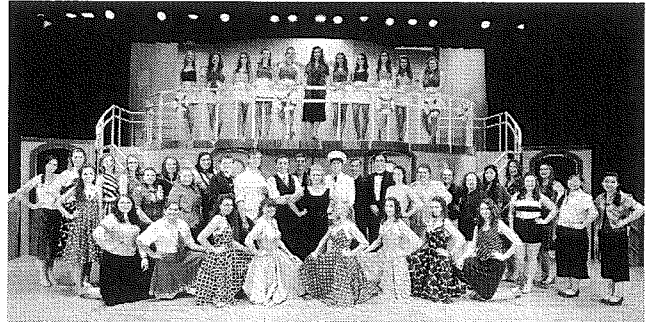


# Mancini Awards nominees announced, best of high school musicals

By Scott Tady [stady@timesonline.com](mailto:stady@timesonline.com) | Posted: Saturday, May 9, 2015 6:00 pm

MIDLAND -- Nominations were announced Saturday for the 21st annual Henry Mancini Musical Theatre Awards.

Twenty-six high schools from Beaver, Butler and Lawrence counties will be represented in the May 30 ceremony recognizing excellence in musical theater productions. For the second straight year, the 7 p.m. awards show, honoring individual artistry and overall professionalism, will take place at the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center in Midland.



## 'Anything Goes' at Riverside High School

The 21st annual Henry Mancini Awards for high school musicals is scheduled for May 30 at the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center. Here, Riverside High School students pose on stage for the school's spring performance of "Anything Goes."

## Photo review: A look back at this spring's school musicals

This year's nominees:

### Outstanding Overall Production

Ambridge Area High School, "The Addams Family;" Blackhawk High School, "The Addams Family;" Freedom Area High School, "West Side Story;" Knoch High School, "Anything Goes;" Mars Area High School, "Shrek the Musical;" Neshannock High School, "Bye, Bye Birdie;" Quigley Catholic High School, "Godspell;" Seneca Valley High School, "The Addams Family;" Shenango High School, "Thoroughly Modern Millie;" and Slippery Rock Area High School, "The Addams Family."

### Outstanding Overall Performance

Ambridge, "The Addams Family;" Blackhawk, "The Addams Family;" Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic High School, "Kiss Me, Kate;" Freedom, "West Side Story;" Mars, "Shrek the Musical;" Neshannock, "Bye, Bye Birdie;" Quigley, "Godspell;"

Seneca Valley, "The Addams Family;" and Shenango, "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

### **Outstanding Technical Execution**

Ambridge, "The Addams Family;" Blackhawk, "The Addams Family;" Freedom, "West Side Story;" Neshannock, "Bye, Bye Birdie;" Riverside High School, "Anything Goes;" Seneca Valley, "The Addams Family;" Shenango, "Thoroughly Modern Millie;" and Slippery Rock Area, "The Addams Family."

### **Outstanding Choreography**

Ambridge, "The Addams Family;" Blackhawk, "The Addams Family;" Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic, "Kiss Me, Kate;" Freedom, "West Side Story;" Knoch High School, "Anything Goes;" Neshannock, "Bye, Bye Birdie;" Quigley, "Godspell;" Shenango, "Thoroughly Modern Millie;" and Wilmington Area High School, "The Wiz."

### **Outstanding Ensemble**

Ambridge, "The Addams Family;" Blackhawk, "The Addams Family;" Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic, "Kiss Me, Kate;" Freedom, "West Side Story;" Freeport Senior High School, "Beauty and the Beast;" Mars, "Shrek the Musical;" Neshannock, "Bye, Bye Birdie;" Seneca Valley, "The Addams Family;" and Shenango, "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

### **Outstanding Vocal Ensemble**

Ambridge, "The Addams Family;" Big Beaver Falls High School, "Godspell;" Blackhawk, "The Addams Family;" Butler Senior High School, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat;" Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic, "Kiss Me, Kate;" Freedom, "West Side Story;" Mars, "Shrek the Musical;" Neshannock, "Bye, Bye Birdie;" New Brighton High School, "Mary Poppins;" Quigley, "Godspell;" Seneca Valley, "The Addams Family;" and Shenango, "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

### **Outstanding Community Engagement**

Ambridge, "The Addams Family;" Beaver Area High School, "Beauty and the Beast;" Blackhawk, "The Addams Family;" Freedom, "West Side Story;" Freeport, "Beauty and the Beast;" Moniteau High School, "Disney's High School Musical;" Neshannock, "Bye, Bye Birdie;" Quigley, "Godspell;" Seneca Valley, "The Addams Family;" and Western Beaver High School, "Grease."

### **Outstanding Student Orchestra**

Beaver, "Beauty and the Beast;" Blackhawk, "The Addams Family;" Butler, "Joseph

and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic, “Honk!” Freeport, “Beauty and the Beast,” Karns City High School, “Shrek the Musical,” Knoch, “Anything Goes,” Moniteau, “Disney’s High School Musical,” Slippery Rock, “The Addams Family,” and South Side Area High School, “Pippin.”

### **Outstanding Leading Actor**

LaMar Lester (Jesus), “Godspell,” Big Beaver Falls High School; Chase Uram (Joseph), “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” Butler; Michael Tarasovich (Ugly) “Honk!,” Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic; Robbie Raso (Tony), “West Side Story,” Freedom; Adam Seybert (Donkey), “Shrek the Musical,” Karns City; Ben Lowery (Billy Crocker), “Anything Goes,” Knoch; Hunter Baselj (Donkey), “Shrek the Musical,” Mars; Elijah Smith (Bert), “Mary Poppins,” New Brighton; George Burnet (Jesus), “Godspell,” Quigley; Cole Davis (Uncle Fester), “The Addams Family,” Seneca Valley; and Cole Stoecker (Lion), “The Wiz,” Wilmington Area.

### **Outstanding Leading Actress**

Noelle Marousis (Wednesday Addams), “The Addams Family,” Blackhawk; Maura Lehocky (Anita), “West Side Story,” Freedom; Megan Palko (Belle), “Beauty and the Beast,” Freeport; Jordan Luntz (Reno Sweeney), “Anything Goes,” Knoch; Allison Wright (Fiona), “Shrek the Musical,” Mars; Britney Yauger (Truly Scrumptious), “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang,” Portersville Christian School; Hayley Hoss (Morticia Addams), “The Addams Family,” Seneca Valley; Rachel Carmella (Wednesday Addams), “The Addams Family,” Seneca Valley; Brianna Bartley (Millie), “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” Shenango; and Alexandra Adams (Leading Player), “Pippin,” South Side Area.

### **Outstanding Supporting Actor**

Jordan Escamilla (Pugsley Addams), “The Addams Family,” Ambridge; John Paul Grabowski (Lumiere), “Beauty and the Beast,” Beaver; Patrick Tyson (Benjy), “My Favorite Year,” Beaver Country Christian; Nathan James (Riff), “West Side Story,” Freedom; Alex Barna (Mr. Green), “Clue: The Musical,” Hopewell High School; Shawn Klein (Pinocchio), “Shrek the Musical,” Karns City High; and Sean Evanick (Sir Evelyn Oakley), “Anything Goes,” Riverside.

### **Outstanding Supporting Actress**

Meredith McClure (Lady Jacqueline Carstone), “Me and My Girl,” Central Valley High School; Vanessa Gennaro (Professor Plum), “Clue: The Musical,” Hopewell; Addy Albert (Erma), “Anything Goes,” Knoch; McKenzie Hutchison (Pinocchio),

“Shrek the Musical,” Mars; Elizabeth Frketich (Betty Rizzo), “Grease,” Mohawk High School; Jerianne Zona (Ado Annie Carnes), “Oklahoma!,” New Castle High School; Taylor Zagorski (Bonnie), “Anything Goes,” Riverside; Elizabeth Salem (Miss Flannery), “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” Shenango; Amanda Carbone (Mrs. Potts), “Beauty and the Beast,” Union Area High School; and Claire DiMuccio (Glinda), “The Wiz,” Wilmington.

### **Outstanding Noteworthy Individual**

Lisa Huff (Grandma Addams), “The Addams Family,” Ambridge; Jared Stonefield (Lurch), “The Addams Family,” Blackhawk; Nathan Rogalski (John), “Peter Pan,” Evangel Heights Christian Academy; Ryan Edder (Action), “West Side Story,” Freedom; Sam Crummie (Madame De La Grande Bouche), “Beauty and the Beast,” Freeport; Elijah Sklack (Elisha J. Whitney), “Anything Goes,” Hopewell; William Craig (Wolf), “Shrek the Musical,” Karns City High School; Nick DeLeone (Gingy), “Shrek the Musical,” Mars Area High School; Abbey Schandelmeir (Mrs. Darbus), “Disney’s High School Musical,” Moniteau; Hannah Grippio (Dream Laurey), “Oklahoma!,” New Castle; Hunter Ferchaw (Gertie Cummings), “Oklahoma!,” New Castle; Owen Flemming (Lurch), “The Addams Family,” Seneca Valley; Noah Pollio (LeFou), “Beauty and the Beast,” Union Area; and Kimberly Keagy (Cha-Cha), “Grease,” Western Beaver.

### **Outstanding Noteworthy Group**

Maxford House Girls, “My Favorite Year,” Beaver County Christian; Skeleton Dancers, “The Addams Family,” Blackhawk; Gangsters, “Kiss Me, Kate,” Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic; Grape Dancers, “Kiss Me, Kate,” Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic; Drummers, “Peter Pan,” Evangel Heights Christian; Three Pigs, “Shrek the Musical,” Karns City; Cowboy Bob’s Band, “Footloose,” Laurel High School; Fan Club Girls, “Bye, Bye Birdie,” Neshannock; Ching Ho & Bun Foo, “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” Shenango; Ancestors, “The Addams Family,” Slippery Rock; and Monkeys, “The Wiz,” Wilmington.

The top "overall performance" category relates to only what happens on stage with the actors, while the top "overall production" covers the overall experience.

Tickets for the awards ceremony are on sale now for \$10 at [lppacenter.org](http://lppacenter.org). People also may order tickets in person or by calling the box office during weekday business hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at (724) 576-4644, and choosing option two.

The awards ceremony will feature invited performances from various school productions.

Additionally, a lifetime achievement award will be presented to Emma Rocco for her outstanding contributions to local musical theater programs. Rocco has been a leader in music education in Beaver County and a major advocate for the arts in education since beginning her career at Monaca High School. She was a founder of Brodhead Community Players who did the first musicals at the Brodhead Cultural Center and started musicals for students at Penn State Beaver, where she was a professor and now has professor emeritus. Her award will be presented by former student Sandy Reigel, who is the founder and director of Center Theatre Players and the choir director and musical director with Central Valley High School.

Former honorees will serve as awards presenters, including Nathan Novak of New Sewickley Township, who also served as an adjudicator this year.

“I’m grateful for my high school Mancini memories and can’t wait to see this next generation of performers experience their Mancini Awards at the Center,” Novak said in a press release. “The Mancini Awards ceremony process is arguably the highlight of a high school performer’s career. I remember how exciting it was to be a part of such a professional and high energy experience.”

The Henry Mancini Musical Theatre Awards are also establishing two scholarship opportunities that will be available to students once funded. Nominated students who will major in the arts will be able to apply for the Phil Inman Scholarship, with a lead gift from Emma Rocco, and the Henry Mancini Scholarship, like the awards itself named for the famed music composer who grew up in Aliquippa.