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## Student performers star in Jerry Ensemble Cabaret

**Madison, Wis.** (April 26, 2024) — Overture Center's annual [Jerry Ensemble Cabaret](#) returns on **Tuesday, May 14 at 7 p.m.** Members of the Southern Wisconsin Jerry Ensemble will dazzle guests in a 75-minute cabaret-style performance in Overture Center's Promenade Hall. Tickets (\$25) are available at [overture.org](https://overture.org). A livestream option is available (Pay What You Wish, minimum \$10).

The Jerry Ensemble will delight you with songs from musical theater classic gems to fresh-on-the-scene contemporary shows. Hailing from over a dozen regional Wisconsin schools, these exceptionally talented performers will make this an unforgettable evening. Sing along with your favorite songs, learn new ones and get to know these outstanding entertainers! They are sure to touch your heart and bring a smile to your face.

Overture Center's Jerry Ensembles (Central and Southern) are premier performance groups representing the Jerry Awards, featuring select vocal performers. The accomplished singers of the Jerry Ensemble participate in the group 2-4 years each, delighting audiences with songs from musical theater, movies, legendary artists and more. They present solos, duets, trios and group performances in front of a variety

of audiences in a variety of settings each year, including the Jerry Awards Ceremony, Cocktails with Tim & Karra, UW basketball games and Kids in the Rotunda.

According to Karra Beach, Overture's director of Broadway engagement programs, many of these performances are unlike those students experience at school or with other theater groups: "In most of these settings, they are performing in a smaller space where they can easily see the audience. The Cabaret requires a different set of performer tools, and it's the time we get to hear the students tell their stories that connect the songs together. They may sing in character, but they are sharing themselves with the audience, too."

The cabaret event will feature group numbers, duets, trios and also special showcase numbers for the Jerry Ensemble seniors.

**JERRY AWARDS** - The [Jerry Awards](#) is a high school musical awards program that encourages, recognizes and honors excellence in high school musical theater. The program began in the 2009/10 school year with 23 productions within 45 miles of Madison and has since expanded across the state through partnerships with Marcus Performing Arts Center, The Grand Theater and Viterbo University Fine Arts Center. Educators and industry professionals review productions at Wisconsin high schools and/or community theater organizations and provide valuable feedback to students. In its first decade, the Jerry Awards engaged more than 700,000 students, teachers, theater professionals and community members and has grown into a nationally recognized showcase of the brightest stars in Wisconsin high school musical theater.

**JERRY ENSEMBLE** - Students in participating high schools can participate in the Central or Southern [Jerry Ensemble](#). Students are selected through auditions each year. The Central Wisconsin Jerry Ensemble is directed by Marshall DeLonay and the Southern Wisconsin Jerry Ensemble is directed by Gail Becker.

#### **2023/24 Southern Wisconsin Jerry Ensemble**

- Erica Briski, Oregon High School
- Lilly Cherney, Monroe High School
- Matias Finley, Abundant Life Christian School
- Gracie Halverson, Madison West High School
- Nathan Heil, New Glarus High School
- Beau Bastian Jacobs, Oregon High School
- William Kastner, Kettle Moraine School for Art & Performance
- Teagan Kluetzman, Madison East High School
- Dalaney Lange, DeForest High School
- Zöe Littlefield, Madison West High School
- Molly McArdle, Sun Prairie West High School
- Lucy Natale, Parker Arts Academy
- Leena Rathgeber, Monona Grove High School
- Owen Sehgal, Middleton High School
- Connor Wilkinson, Sun Prairie East High School
- Aurelia Wochenske, Oregon High School (Alternate)

*Overture Center is pleased to partner with Marcus Performing Arts Center and The Grand Theater, expanding the reach of the Jerry Awards to Milwaukee, Wausau and LaCrosse area schools. Additional funding is provided by Katie Dowling-Marcus & Ben Marcus and contributions to Overture Center for the Arts.*

**OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS** in Madison, Wis., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that features seven state-of-the-art performance spaces and four galleries where national and international touring artists, nine resident companies and hundreds of local artists engage people in nearly 700,000 educational and artistic experiences each year. Overture's mission is to support and elevate our community's creative culture, economy and quality of life through the arts. [overture.org](https://overture.org)

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