

# ISSMA contestants bring home gold

By Olivia Lighty

Before every choir performance, junior **Dawt Cin** drinks ginger tea to help her vocal chords stay hydrated for a performance. The tradition paid off Saturday as she won gold awards as a member of two choir ensembles at the Indiana State School Music Association State Solo and Ensemble Saturday.

Cin's two ensembles, "Java Jive" and "It Don't Mean a Thing," were at Perry bright and early in order to compete along with most of the schools in the state.

Students who participate in ISSMA perform either a memorized solo, sing with an ensemble of two or more people or choose to do both. After performing, a soloist or ensemble is ranked on their performance and given a score. After receiving this score a student can pick up a medal, participation, bronze, silver, or gold, that identified with their score.

Cin's credits her past music experiences to helping her perform better.

"I used to get really nervous, but my nerves have gotten a lot better with more experiences. When I do get nervous, I do jumping jacks."

In order to prep for her "Java Jive" performance, Cin and her ensemble practiced every day after school. Cin says she credits her group's successful performance to their hard work and dedication.

"I thought both groups did very well. Her group 'Java Jive' worked extremely hard; one of the most hard-working ensembles I have ever worked with," says choir director **Melissa Walsh**.

Cin comments that some of her practice sessions with her group took

place during the day with junior **Reni Boyarov** and sophomore **Maria Miller**.

"Reni and I are in the IMC first period and sometimes Maria would come in and we would just randomly start singing 'Java Jive' together."

Miller explains that Cin's leadership aided their performance at state.

"She always makes sure that she sings her parts right, and works through any notes or rhythms she has trouble with. Dawt helps all of us work through anything so that we can be the best we can be when performing."

Miller also commented on Cin's readiness and organizational skills.

"Dawt just knows what she's doing which is nice because when I ask her, Dawt always knows."

Junior and a member of the "It Don't Mean a Thing" ensemble **Morgan Goldman** explains how Cin was a crucial part to their performance.

"She was the only one that could hit the low notes so the quartet would have been nothing without her."

Looking ahead to her future singing career, Cin plans to sing more at her church as well as continue with choir into her senior year of high school, she says.

"I would love to study music in college, but because there are so many people going into music, I have to think more realistically. For college I want to go into something involving math or physics."

Cin's passion for music and leadership lives on in the hearts of her friends.

"She is a hard worker and would stop at nothing to make sure anyone and everyone succeeds in life."



Sophomore Maria Miller, juniors Dawt Cin, Reni Boyarov, and Halley Langhorst practice before their District 1 quartet "Java Jive" performance (Photo by Olivia Lighty).

## Students who earned gold metals

### Boys large ensemble

**Dominick Andrews, Mason Brickley, Eli Carnes, Joseph Carper, Dominick Heyob, Joseph Hock, Anas Khadiri, Van Lian, Noah McCullough, Daniel Obaseki, Dean Pederson, Nolan Rosberg, Max Sandefer, Helly Sang, John Shields, Nick Vaux, and Embry Vernon.**

### Girls large ensemble

**Shelby Bizik, Sierra Durbin, Carson Gates, Abby Hoover, Kelsey Kurnick, Halley Langhorst, Sydney McGaha, Grace Nash, Caitlyn Orr, Krishna Patel, Kailah Roach, Payton Romans, Anna Sutt, Amy Tial, and Kati Wall.**

### Mixed large ensemble

**Mason Brickley, Madalyn Cannon, Eli Carnes, Morgan Goldman, Addison Hofer, Caroline Kavanaugh, Kelsey Kurnick, Van Lian, Siang Mang, Daniel Obaseki, Dean Pederson, Kaitlyn Robinson, Max Sandefer, Helly Sang, Laine Scifres, and John Shields.**

This group received a "with distinction" award.

### Mixed Ensemble

**Aden Coleman, Lexie Julbert, Danielle Justice, Jessica Kidwell, Nick Vaux, and Embry Vernon.** This group received a "with distinction" award and a perfect score!

### Mixed Ensemble

**Reni Boyarov, Aden Coleman, Kelsey Kurnick, Van Lian, Max Sandefer, Laine Scifres, John Shields, Kati Wall.**

### Sweet Adeline quartet

**Dawt Cin, Morgan Goldman, Payton Romans, and Laine Scifres.**

### Sweet Adeline quartet

**Olivia Castaneda, Cassidy Chamberlin, Lexie Julbert, and Jessica Kidwell.** This group received a "with distinction" award.

### Sweet Adeline quartet

**Reni Boyarov, Dawt Cin, Halley Langhorst, and Maria Miller.** This group received a "with distinction" award.

### Vocal soloists that received a gold rating at state

**Jessica Bast, Aden Coleman** ("with distinction"), **Lexie Julbert** ("with distinction"), **Danielle Justice** ("with distinction" and a perfect score), **Caroline Kavanaugh, Maria Miller, Payton Romans** ("with distinction"), **Laine Scifres, Embry Vernon** ("with distinction").



Juniors Laine Scifres, Payton Romans, Dawt Cin, and Morgan Goldman sing "It Don't Mean a Thing" in science teacher Andrew Sebold's room (Photo by Olivia Lighty).