



MORTON
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Oct. 7, 2020

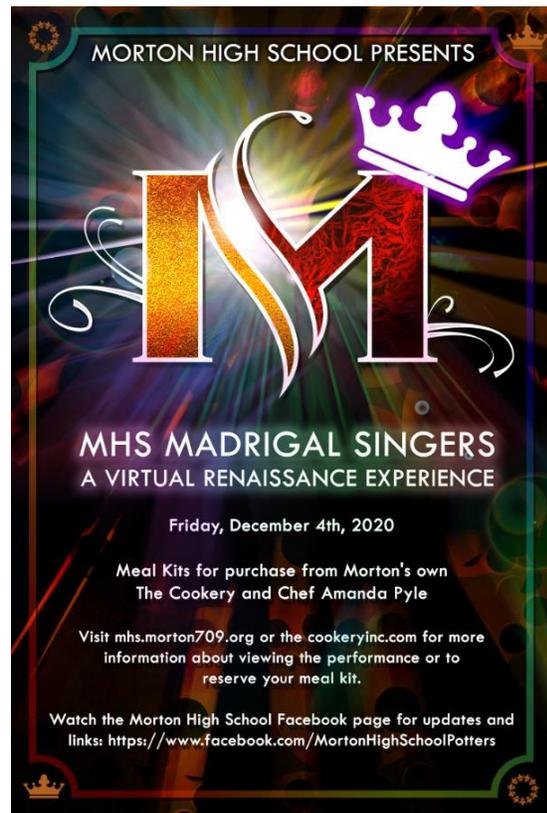
2020 Madrigal a new twist on an old holiday tradition

Morton High School is partnering with The Cookery to create a reimagined Madrigal program this coming holiday season.

Instead of the customary, in-person Madrigal performance and accompanying meal this year, participants can enjoy their four-course renaissance meal – fit for a king and queen, naturally – while watching the Medieval entertainment online from the comfort of their own home.

This clever twist on a holiday tradition was made necessary by the pandemic, of course, which limits crowd sizes.

“I wanted to make it something special for the seniors. I didn’t want to just let it go by without doing something memorable for them,” said Heather Berger, who’s in her 21st year overseeing the Madrigal program.



As to teaming up with The Cookery, “I was looking for a way to keep the Madrigal program going and help local business, and so I called,” said Berger. “We really wanted to involve the community. And we really wanted an audience, even if it wasn’t in person.”



The event is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4. If it proves popular, there could be a second weekend performance, so be on the lookout for that date and time. The video will be aired on MPTV on the District 709 website; the link is [here](#).

The feast feeds from four to six people – or you can fill up on the leftovers for days -- and includes all the ingredients to make wassail, seared pork or chicken breast (your choice) with pan sauce, roasted root vegetables and Apple Galette for dessert. Rolls and cinnamon butter are included. Participants can watch The Cookery’s talented chefs instruct them on the preparations in a [video](#) prior to the evening’s music, drama and comedy.

The whole thing costs \$50 and can be ordered [here](#) or by contacting Amanda Pyle at The Cookery, 309-263-6020 or thecookeryinc@gmail.com. All orders must be placed by 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30. Pickup at The Cookery, 2020 S. Main St. in Morton at the Field Shopping Center, is between noon and 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 4,

unless you make arrangements otherwise. There are no refunds, so if you have a change of plans, please feel free to make a gift of it.

Though the experience is a virtual one, Madrigal organizers want as much audience participation as possible. Those watching are invited to dress in costume and to take photos and post them on social media, either on the Morton Choir Facebook page or on Instagram under the hashtag #MortonMads2020.

Meanwhile, the event also serves as fundraiser for the Madrigal program. In addition to getting a 10 percent cut from every meal purchased, MHS is looking for sponsors, filming and airing promotional videos for advertisers, accepting donations and selling T-shirts. If you would like to provide support for the Madrigal program in any way, please contact Eric Myers at eric.myers@mcusd709.org.

Berger said she's excited that the whole thing is coming together for the approximately 40 students who participate as singers, in the brass ensemble, prelude ensemble or in some other capacity. The preparations have been intense and somewhat different this year, with earlier-than-usual deadlines to accommodate the filming and editing schedule. MPTV Coordinator Brooke Janes is handling all of the camera chores.

"It's a little more pressure on the kids," said Berger, who has found that, generally speaking, they've thrived on it. In a typical year, some 220 people would purchase tickets over two performances, and Berger is hoping for a turnout that comes close to that.

Regardless, "I will remember this one forever," she said, adding that many area high schools have had to cancel their Madrigals. "Once we started putting out our promotional stuff, I thought, 'Wow, this is really happening ... I'm so thankful that we are in a position to share this performance, despite the challenges and limitations.'"

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