

Somerville students travel to Jordan to sing for King Abdullah II

Wicked Local Somerville

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Somerville — **Zoe Blickenderfer**, 16, a student at Somerville High School, and Etta Resnick-Field, 15, a Landmark School student, will travel to Jordan this summer with the Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) at the invitation of the king.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity for these kids to foster cross-cultural understanding in a country that continually represents peace in one of our world's most conflict-ridden regions," said Artistic Director Anthony Trecek-King. "It also provides the singers with an unforgettable chance to learn about a foreign culture and its history by forming friendships across global boundaries, and gives them a new stage on which to celebrate diversity and unity."

The tour was borne of the invitation of His Majesty King Abdullah II, who was inspired by a performance by the chorus during a visit to Boston in 2007. Fifty-five singers, ages 11 to 18, from more than 35 communities throughout Greater Boston and 10 chaperones will travel to Jordan June 30 to July 11. They will give five to six performances at venues in Amman and the many rural towns in the kingdom, participate in cultural and musical workshops across the country,; and may also perform for the king.

The singers have been participating in a pre-tour educational program to learn the customs and history of the country. They will be posting live blogs and pictures during the trip, updating Facebook and the BCC Website, www.bostonchildrenschorus.org, as well as keeping journals and filming various activities.

BCC unites children, families and community leaders from Boston's diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic backgrounds to sing and celebrate, develop relationships, break down social barriers and contribute to the healing of Boston's history of racial divides and social isolation. The singers will share the universal message of peace through the universal language of music.

The chorus harnesses the power and joy of music to unite the city's diverse communities and inspire social change. Singers transcend social barriers in a celebration of shared humanity and love of music. Through intensive choral training and high-profile public performance experience locally, throughout the U.S. and around the world, they learn discipline, develop leadership skills, and represent the city of Boston as ambassadors of harmony.

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