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A 'Messiah' moment

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On Oct. 18, fifth-grade students from Raleigh-Bartlett Meadows Elementary received a special visit from famous composer Georg Fredrick Handel.

Dressed in period attire from the 18th century, Handel shared information regarding his oratorio "Messiah." Students learned how the piece was composed and were given insight into its history.

Following the presentation, students were given an opportunity to ask questions of the famous composer himself.

The visit by "Mr. Handel" was to prepare the students to attend the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the Orphanos Foundation's dress rehearsal of the Memphis "Messiah" at the Cannon Center that evening.

Students from several Memphis City Schools were given the opportunity by the Orphanos Foundation to attend the dress rehearsal at no cost. Eighty-eight fifth-grade students, teachers and parents from Raleigh-Bartlett Meadows attended the performance, which allowed them to hear Part 1 of "Messiah" and to get a glimpse behind the scenes when the orchestra and chorus worked to fine-tune the piece. Students were amazed at the orchestra and vocal ability of the soloists and chorus.

The public performance of the Memphis "Messiah" was Oct. 19 at the Cannon Center. The Memphis presentation of "Messiah" benefited the work of Orphanos with Children at Risk in Latin America. For more information, call Orphanos Foundation at 458-9500 or log on to www.orphanos.org.

Raleigh-Bartlett Meadows Elementary is at 5195 Twin Woods. For more information, call 416-4336.

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