

Adrian, Michigan

Students Will Sing Inside Carnegie

By Reed Dunn
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Musicians dream of performing at Carnegie Hall. Most of them never make it there.

Fortunately for Capac High School graduate James Davidson, his chance is only days away.

"I'm ecstatic," Davidson, 20, said. "It was pretty big news. I certainly didn't expect it."

A music education student at Adrian College, Davidson leaves Friday to visit New York City for a Monday evening performance in Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall. He will be joined by 47 other students from Adrian, including freshman Justin Kulman, a graduate of Port Huron High School, and senior Kristen Metz, a Port Huron Northern High School graduate.

"It's really great," Metz, 21, said. "I'd say it's one of the best things that's happened in my years here,"

Metz is a biology major who said she always enjoyed music and joined the Adrian choir two years ago after a friend suggested it. She played in her high school band, but Adrian's is the first formal chorus she has been in since junior high.

Davidson also said his focus has been mostly instrumental. A trumpet major at Adrian, he is involved in many of the college's other music ensembles. Still, of the many concerts he has played, Carnegie Hall certainly will top the list.

"It's where people like Ray Charles used to play at," Davidson said. "It's not every day you get to do this."



BIG SHOW: Members of the Adrian College choir will perform at Carnegie Hall

The Adrian choir will perform alongside members of the Lenawee Community Chorus and other choral groups from across the country. Accompanied by the New England Symphonic Ensemble, the collective group will perform Faure's Requiem, a 45-minute cantata.

During the four-day trip, the students also will have plenty of time to see the sites and catch some Broadway shows, something Metz said will be a highlight. That's partly because this is her first trip to the Big Apple.

"A lot of people say, 'Wow, Carnegie Hall. That's unreal,'" she said. "It's a nice thing to end out my senior year, and it's this great cultural experience."

Adrian choral director Tom Hodgman, who also leads the Lenawee group, was asked by MidAmerica Productions of New York City for both groups to be part of the performance. The students learned of the opportunity a little more than a year ago, and those wanting to go had to raise money to cover expenses.

"It's going to be really great, not just for the experience, but to say I sang in Carnegie Hall," said Kulman, who also is making his first trip to the city. "Really, to sing in Carnegie Hall will be just awesome."