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PSAA Connection

Making Every Story.

Issue
#14

Izabelle Maia

Once Upon a Tour Don't kiss and tell

I can't believe it's been three weeks since the music tour. It was definitely a remarkable trip, and worth every penny used toward it. As a senior I was really looking forward to this trip and I was determined to make the most out of this trip, since it was my last high school music tour. But of course the enemy tried with all his forces to destroy the trip, bringing the rain to Cali, just because the mere citizens of Washington state were showing up to the sunshine state! But as Washington state citizens we also wouldn't allow such a thing as a little rain to ruin the trip we looked so much forward to! So I don't know about you, but rain or no rain I had a good time and enjoyed every moment!

First day was definitely the least exciting and more boring one, at least in my opinion. As a girl I love shopping but I hate the feeling of being broken after a big shopping day, and I mean I only bought like three things and my wallet was already sobbing it's tears out! And the hockey game...Well, it was fun. The best part was no doubt the ice cream! Disney days were fun! The highlight of the trip for me! Best rides were no doubt the Incredicoaster, Space Mountain, and Tiana's Bayou! I believe from what?!? The 20 hours we spent at Disney, I spent easily five of those or more in the line of the Incredicoaster, that's how much I loved the experience of that roller coaster, and if we had more time at Disney I would with no doubt spend those at the Incredicoaster line as well! Now the Tiana's Bayou was also really fun, the highlight of that one is definitely watching Obed walking like he was experiencing diarrhea and needing to desperately release the torture between his legs, after being completely drenched during the ride, the remodel of the Tiana's Bayou definitely include adding more water to the fall! Now the other obsession that took place in my heart despite the Incredicoaster, were the churros and the birria tacos from the park! I could eat both of those for the rest of my life and would never get tired of them! I was so desperately obsessed that I even took the challenge of imitating a monkey in the middle of the park line, just for a free churro. Did it result in me receiving a bunch of side eyes?! Yes!! Would I ever do it again? Obviously, duh!! Because regardless of the side eyes, I was a happy girl afterwards with my free churro! I believe I ate at least ten churros in a span of two days! That's how obsessed I was! And the birria. It was so good! I'm sorry for all of those who didn't have the chance to try neither of these divine creations! Now enough of food, I probably gained two pounds just by talking about that!

Obed Dominguez

Song of the Issue
Gonna Take You There
by: Jim Cummings

Spotify Play Count: 16,337,805



Now let's talk about how this was one of trips with the most couples in PSAA history! Wherever I looked I would spot one of the couples kissing or cuddling, like, can the single people have one moment of peace and not be remembered about their lonely life, please?!?! Like I promise, they were EVERYWHERE. I think the cupid angels were inspired and were shooting love arrows like crazy, because there's no way there are so many new couples and still look at me! As single as is humanly possible! I'm pretty sure at least one of them got called out for being too touchy with each other! I also heard from a few people that during the bus ride they felt like they were on their way to the love island by the amount of "smooch, smooch" and cuddling in their surroundings! Like is it that hard to keep your hands to yourself or at least wait until we get to the hotel?!? I even heard about how one of these couples were sneaking out every single night, now what they were doing still remains a mystery! Its surprising for me how Ms. Stark only caught one of them considering how strict she is about such things!

Now let's talk about the workshop... I personally wasn't in the workshop for Dodici, but I asked one of the members and the one word they used to describe the workshop was "instructive". That's better than how the band one turned out! I was at the band workshop and the only thing I can say about it is that when something is bad it can always get worse! Because this year after every single concert the band did, people would always be talking about how we played horrible, but I believe the workshop was our lowest point, when I thought we were doing a little improvement, the instructor would play the recording and I would realize that it was just my imagination! At least we got a compliment from Ms. Stark about our behavior, I'll take that as a win! The lion roar?!?!? I'll make no further comments about that one, but you can wait until the spring concert and find out for yourself how it turned out! On Saturday we got the chance to spend some time at the beach, and it was definitely one of my favorite moments to be honest, just being able to smell that smell that you can only experience at beaches was totally worth it! However being able to watch our school play football along the coast, people getting in the water, all the genuine laughs, and watching the stunning sunset was what made the day such a perfect day and the perfect way to wrap the tour up! Regardless of being surrounded by the next love island cast, from the comments I've heard we were all still able to have a good time! Among people their favorite part of the trip were Disney, getting In-n-Out, the Incredicoaster, the water show at Disney, and some favorite memories were being with friends, the late night laughs, getting Cane's at 1 am, running around the park trying to get people shoes off, feeling the butterflies in their stomach right before the Incredicoaster would take off, among so many others! This was a trip to be remembered and it's definitely the highlight of the year for many people! I couldn't end this section without thanking Ms. Stark, for being such a good instructor, an instructor that cares for her students, that always believes in the potential of all students even when we don't believe ourselves, for making the process of learning how to play an instrument such an enjoyable path, for transferring her love for music to the students' hearts as well! Thank you Ms. Stark for providing the experience of an amazing tour, and all the memories that were created because of your determination to give us a good tour! I would also like to recognize and thank all the chaperones that were among us in this trip, thank you for always doing the possible and impossible to help not only Ms. Stark, but the students as well! Your help made a HUGE difference, and I'm sure we all appreciate your help and support! And for those who weren't able to go, I hope this section inspired you to join Band or Dodici next year, so you can also create unforgettable memories with your friends and go on amazing trips just like this one! And be able to have a good time just like most of us did! I'll see you next article with more chisme...



Halle Bammert

The “In-N-Outs” of SoCal food

Coming from Washington, we constantly crave the legendary food California has to offer. Back home, we don't have the iconic spots like In-N-Out, Raising Cane’s, or the magical food offerings of Disney Parks. Since we were there, you know I had to have them all. I know most of you went to In-N-Out the minute we landed in California. It’s like a cult for Californians, a can’t-miss place to eat anytime you visit. I heard from our very own Californian at the school (Pastor Troy) that if you want to fit in and feel like a true local, order the Neapolitan shake. You might not even know what it is—a mix of strawberry, chocolate, and vanilla shake. Combine that with an Animal Style burger and Animal Style fries from the secret menu? That’s a game changer. If you haven’t already, I highly suggest you try all three next time you find yourself in California.

Then there’s Disney Park, because well, when in California, right? The food may be expensive, and the lines long, but it’s worth it. Some of the favorites I noticed you all eating: the classic churro. Coming in both regular and strawberry, you can’t miss it. And if you don’t believe me, just ask Isabelle—she’d do anything for a churro. Next up, another can’t-miss: the Dole Whip, and my personal new favorite, the birria tacos from Cocina Cucamonga Mexican Grill. And you know I had to save the best for last —my number one fast food place to eat, tied with Chick-fil-A: Raising Cane’s! And if you didn’t know, they’re opening one here in our own Seattle, which means no more day trips to Portland just to get Raising Cane’s. I constantly crave Raising Cane’s, so I had to DoorDash it. But of course, the devil had to interfere. My food got stolen. And when I say I almost cried, you have to believe me. But I wasn’t giving up that easily. After some technical support, I finally got my Cane’s! The chicken was just as crispy and juicy as I remembered, and that Cane’s sauce is just straight-up addicting. I could’ve eaten 10 more. So yeah, personally, I think the food was one of my favorite parts of the trip. Until next time, California.

Abigail Soria

A week in the life

I can say that this music tour was one of the best we have had, coming close to a tie with New York. With 2 days at Disneyland and a day at Laguna Beach, it was bound to be fun. The first day of Disney started around 8 or 9 in the morning and even though it was early, no one was complaining because we were going to Disney! Once we got our tickets and were in, we were let loose in groups and free to enjoy our time. My group's first ride we went on was the Star Wars tour, because who doesn't like Star Wars? After that, we just went on all the rides we could before we had to meet up to go do our Disney Imagination workshop, which was pretty fun. Next, we were let out again and free to roam. That was when I went on my absolute favorite roller coaster, the Incredicoaster. When I tell you that thing is so, so fun, I mean it. It's the best ride ever. It has a loop, big drops, and goes fast, what else would you want? At around 9 pm, we started heading back again and once we were at the hotel we started getting ready for bed for another day of Disney.

The next day, again we had an early morning for Disney, and once we got there, again, we were let loose to do what we wanted. Me and my group went to the Incredicoaster and went on it like 3 more times because it was so much fun. We also had the churros and let me tell you they are so good. I could have probably had like 20 of those. That day we did have to leave a little earlier than the day before because again we had an early wakeup the next day. So again, we started heading back to the hotel. Seniors, though, went to In-N-Out for a treat, since it was our last band tour. The burgers were so good. After that though, we went back and got ready for bed. The next day we had a performance and then a tour at La Sierra University and went to check into our new hotel and just got to chill there. Saturday, we had a performance at the Loma Linda Korean church, which went alright, but the potluck after was good, especially the dessert cheesecake that they had. When everybody was loaded onto the bus, we headed back to the hotel to change and headed to Laguna Beach. Now I had never been to Laguna Beach before and was blown away by how pretty it was. It was such a cute town, even though we weren't allowed to go into it, but it looked cute. The beach was gorgeous and it was even better because it was a sunny day. Basically, we were just at the beach, doing what we wanted for 5 hours, and it was so fun. Me and Halle went on a walk all across the beach, but other people got in the water and others were playing football and volleyball. We ended the day with a gorgeous sunset, where someone actually proposed, and some pizza for dinner and then headed back to the hotel, and that was basically our tour because the next day we flew back. This was definitely a tour for the books.

Jonathon Bower

Are We Recording? Inside The Studios and More

“You’re Welcome”
“We Don’t Talk About Bruno”
“I’ll Make A Man Out of You”
“Imperial March”
“A Whole New World”

Some of the most recognizable songs in cinema are produced by Disney, and composers such as Alan Menken, John Williams, and Randy Newman are highly respected in the film industry, and internationally recognized by composers, musicians, vocalists, actors, and sound engineers alike. During our time in Anaheim, CA, we had the opportunity of workshops in Disney’s Imagination Campus for Band and Dodici (plus addons). General concensus: Dodici+ was better than band, and honestly, valid opinion. It was probably because the band workshop was in the afternoon, and Dodici+ was in the late morning. Band attempted “Never Smile At A Crocodile” from Peter Pan, “Flight to Wakanda” from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, “When You Wish Upon A Star” and “Simba Returns to Pride Rock” from The Lion King. Also, for some reason, the person working with us decided to have us do Foley. And you probably wonder, “What is Foley?” Foley is how they make sound effects such as doors closing, steps, roars, and floorboards creaking in animated films. They had us do a roar, and it was ABSOLUTELY MISERABLE, NEVER AGAIN AM I EVER DOING THAT AGAIN! Okay, so moving on, Dodici+ had a better time, doing only two songs though. We sang “We’re Gonna Take You There” from The Princess and The Frog, with soloists Mia and well, Me, and “I See The Light” from Tangled with soloists Julia and Caleb. Now, if you don’t know anything about me, the first thing you will know is that I am good at accents ranging from Southern to English to Chinese to Scottish. So, during my solo, which was a speaking solo, I was speaking, with a sore throat, but I guess that helped make my voice more gravelly. In my opinion, I sounded more like Georgie from Young Sheldon. But, apparently the workshop person thought it was good, and I was told by Jacob, that if Disney doesn’t offer me a job from that, that it would be a crime. So uh, Bob Iger, Disney CEO if you see this, hit me up. Just pay me \$24 an hour. During the Tangled song, it took a while, a couple slip-ups, and a need to use a snipping tool for the audio, but we got there. Okay, yeah Dodici is screwed for next year. We’ll only have a single soprano, one alto, one alto/tenor, and one baritone. We need 2 more sopranos, some altos and tenors, and a new bass section. Anyways, during the workshop, specifically the band one, since the brass were getting picked on a little, that left me as a woodwind free to catch up on 30 seconds of sleep. Best 30 seconds of my life.

Also, Disney being Disney is super stingy about who can be where at any given point.

During our time at La Sierra, we had two workshops, and I barely remember anything from them, since during the Dodici workshop, it was essentially a Soprano Roast Session, with the rest of us standing there. The band workshop also wasn't very memorable in general, but I guess it was okay. VERY IMPORTANT and I’m going to say this... La Sierra food: 9/10. The food there is actually really good, and even though we dunk on Costco pizza, when you’re talking about college food, from what I’ve heard, people will do bad things for a Costco quality pizza. Best part of tour other than Disneyland from my perspective, was when PT was the GOAT, stopping at the Indonesian SDA and Chinese SDA churches in Redlands to let me and Mia take some photos for heritage reasons.

“It’s too early in the morning for this...”
-Me at 11am-ish before performing at Orangewood

Jacob Santiago

Encore Moments

Ms. Stark doesn’t miss. This tour was a “chef’s kiss.” We only performed twice and were able to be at Disney for two whole days. One thing that stood out to me from this trip was the La Sierra workshops. On the band side of things, it was really cool to be able to work on a piece with the person who wrote it. He was very engaging, to say the least. The main thing that I learned was to blow more air; this especially helps when you are slightly flat because then you can give your note more support with that additional air. But the most memorable workshop for me was definitely the Dodici one. It started well, but once we started to sing the song “We Shall Walk,” it soon became a workshop for the sopranos. I'm not saying the sopranos are bad in any way, they were simply struggling to hit the first few notes, and that's what the director was mostly focused on. One thing is for sure, we all definitely got better at singing after that one. The man knew what he was doing. He had these different approaches to helping us sing, like telling us to sing taller, not wider. It made a lot of sense when he explained it. He also told us to open our mouths more, “big enough to fit three fingers.” Also, this guy could sing—like, he had one of the most angelic voices I had ever heard. He could sing the soprano part and the bass part; his voice kind of reminded me of Frank Sinatra. I really did enjoy the workshops because it was different than just having more performances, and I got the opportunity to learn, which I think is always great. And I think that's part of what made this music tour so great. Furthermore, that afternoon at Laguna Beach was something else. We played football on the beach. I started out as quarterback but then I was demoted after I threw a single interception. After that, I honestly couldn't do much. I was not trying to get flattened by some of the bigger guys. Soon after the game was over, I made my way over to the basketball courts and began to shoot around with some of the boys. There were some uncs playing on that court, but they soon left because we all sort of began to crowd the really small court. We got some calm 5v5 going and played with some random little kid that was there who kind of cooked some of us with his little floater. After my team lost, I decided to play a little bit of soccer with my brother, and then soon after that, it was time to eat. Finally, there was Disney. Going to Disney seems like something the school would only ever bring kids to on senior trips. But there we were on a music tour at Disney. I did all of the main rides for both parks, and I would say that my favorite ride was the Star Wars one. It was like a whole experience and then a ride. I honestly spent a lot of the time just eating from the different places as well; Pizza Planet is top tier for sure. In conclusion, 10/10 music tour.

