

Egg Harbor Township Schools

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Re: Festivals at Sea

I am enthusiastically writing this letter in narrative form to share my lifetime of positive experiences with Performing Arts Consultants - Music Festivals at Sea.

In 1988, as a senior in high school, I sang with the choir, in my first festival on the ship! I remember the experience vividly and it still comes up in conversation with my friends and even my former my choir director. While winning the competition was certainly important, what was equally important were the lessons learned from fundraising, goal-setting and being responsible and professional while being without my parents. Finally, and as evidenced by some vintage pictures on social media, I learned a VERY important lesson about sunscreen!


Later, as a high school Orchestra Director in the early 2000's I had the opportunity to bring a 90-piece symphony orchestra to their first cruise festival. Similarly, we left the ship as Grand Champions, but even to this day, that cruise comes up in both conversations and in social media with alumni who are now in or entering their 40s!

Upon completing post graduate work, I became a school administrator and joined the adjunct faculty at Rowan University. With these qualifications, I was (finally) asked to become an adjudicator on multiple ships! While I enjoyed the musical experience immensely, I more so enjoyed making sure my clinics were *edu-taining* for both the students and the directors.

I was also given time to speak with the groups outside of the performance to share my experience and to challenge each and every one of them to participate in a Festival at Sea in the future as a parent-chaperone, director or even as an adjudicator!

In closing, I am glad to triangulate my support for the PAC - Festivals at Sea program with the above mentioned-experiences and am both happy with and proud of these worthwhile and meaningful events!

Sincerely,



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