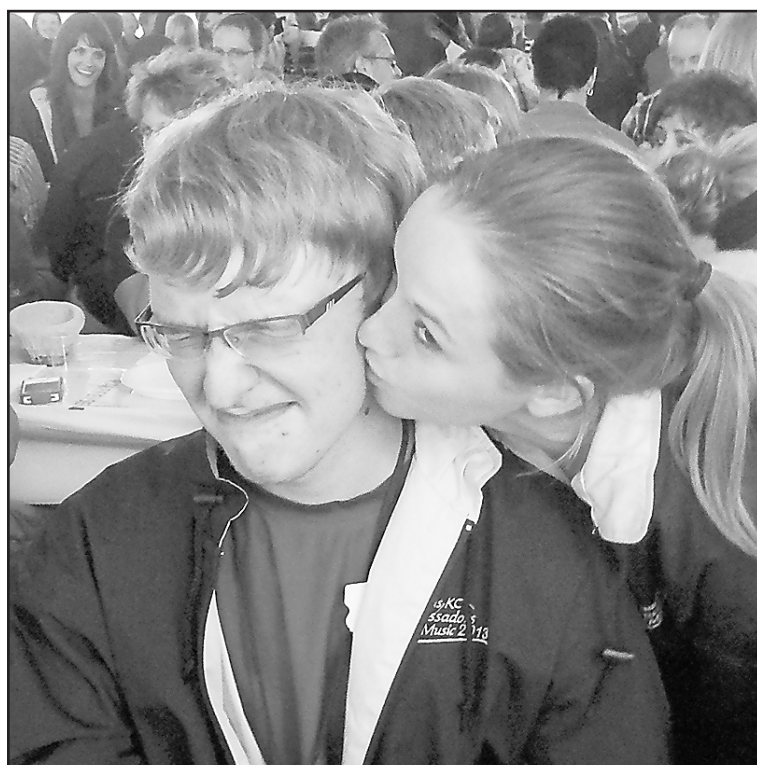




AT THE SQUARE IN ROTHENBURG GERMANY, Miki Dorshorst (top, left of middle), Hannah May and Susan Nelson were a part of the "Flash Mob" in their last choral performance. Makenzie Nelson (below) placed a stone in remembrance of the lost lives at the Jewish Memorial at Dachau Concentration Camp. — Photos by Susan Nelson



AT A FONDU PARTY IN CRANS-MONTANA, SWITZERLAND, Miki Dorshorst kissed Lief Carlson from Norton because it's tradition when someone drops their bread in the fondue pot they must kiss all members of the opposite sex at their table. — Photo by Susan Nelson

Students get the chance to visit, sing in Europe

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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Four Decatur Community High students joined the Kansas Ambassadors of Music tour through Europe last month, sweeping through seven European countries.

Vocal music teacher Susan Nelson and her daughter Makenzie were sponsors for the trip. Pam and Roland May helped chaperone the singers, Zach and Hannah May, Kaine Fredrickson and Miki Dorshorst.

Mrs. Nelson said the group traveled in England, France, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, Germany and Italy. She said the four performed with other ambassadors in a concert choir of 250 students.

The kids sang about eight songs per concert, and toured with an orchestra and a band, she said. Mostly, they performed outside.

"They got to see a lot of different sights and had many experiences," Mrs. Nelson said. "They visited the Louvre, an art museum in Paris, saw the famous choirs of the London Westminster Abbey and also visited St. Paul's cathedral in Italy."

Mr. Fredrickson said the trip overall had been a great experience.

"I enjoyed seeing the architecture of the famous churches," he said. "Some of the churches were older than our country. Notre Dame was celebrating its 850th anniversary."

Miss Dorshorst said she enjoyed seeing the different cultures as the group traveled to different countries.

"Things are a lot different," she said. "Every time we sat down for a meal, we would be at the table for more than an hour because the meals were like shows. All the meals were four-course meals, and I finished them all because they were so good."

She also said that things in Europe move at a different pace than she's accustomed to living in the United States.

"People aren't in a hurry all the time," she said. "Things are much slower."



KAINE FREDRICKSON stood on the lawn near the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Mr. May said the experience is something that no one should pass up and if he had the opportunity to do it again, he would.

"Just being able to sing in the cathedral," he said, "and the great places you read about in the history books was an amazing opportunity. Some people don't have the chance to visit these countries, let alone have the privilege to sing in these places."

One of Mr. May's favorite events was a fondu party in Switzerland. That's where the group learned about the Swiss culture, including how to polka dance.

"Switzerland had a small village of 5,000 people in the valley of the Swiss Alps," he said. "I liked the fact you could roam by yourself rather than being surrounded by groups of people like we were in the bigger cities."