

## NEWS RELEASE

March 2010  
Mariemont City Schools

### **Mariemont Strings Students Perform in Montreal**

It's an exciting time to be a member of the Mariemont High School Strings Orchestra. On March 1, they entertained the community with a combined Junior High and High School Strings Extravaganza evening. Just two weeks prior, they traveled on a performing trip to Montreal, Canada.

On their first day of the Canadian trip, the student musicians explored Old Town Montreal, visited the Art Museum of Montreal and were treated to a performance of the Arion Baroque Orchestra at McGill University. Returning to McGill the next day, the students toured the impressive music department's facilities, including its giant, four-story music library. They participated in an orchestral clinic conducted by Alexis Hauser, Director of the McGill Symphony Orchestra.

Later that same day, the Mariemont High School Strings Orchestra staged a special performance at the magnificent landmark, the Notre-Dame Basilica in Montreal. But what is music without food? The students cultural experience included creperies, patisseries and a dancing dinner at the famous Quebec Sugar Shack where a horse-drawn sleigh whisked them a true local feast. Freshman Adrienne Bruggeman loved the "sugar mania, where everything was surprisingly delicious!" After enjoying the delicious Montreal fare, many students took to the breath-taking slopes at Mont-Tremblant, while others explored the charming resort village.

Also included in trip activities was exploring the Museum of Fine Art, enjoying a French dinner theater experience and of course, shopping - both in quaint shops and in Montreal's rambling underground malls.

For Mariemont senior Ginna Rich, her favorite experience was when their strings director MaryBeth Khamis took the seniors on a special walking tour through the heart of the city at night. "It was the opening night of the Vancouver Olympics and you could feel the Canadian pride and excitement right there in Montreal."

On their final day, the Mariemont musicians traveled to Niagra Falls, performing in the Visitor's Center Grand Hall with the magnificent Horseshoe Falls as their backdrop. "Ms. Khamis organized an amazing trip," according to senior Maura Weaver. "She cares so much about every student and made sure we had an incredible experience."



*Photos:*

*BasilicaConcert – Mariemont High School Strings Orchestra performed at the Basilica Notre-Dame in Montreal on February 12.  
MHSStringsMcGill – Mariemont HS Strings musicians toured and performed at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.*



*MHSStringsOnTheTown – MHS strings musicians tour the city of Montreal.*

*MHSStringsSki – Mariemont High School students Nikki Gauche, Alex Swords and Ginna Rich get ready to hit the slopes on their Strings Orchestra trip to Montreal*