

Clocker Idol

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Unlike the slowly demising "American Idol" on its 15th and final season, "Clocker Idol" is exponentially thriving. The competition on Dec. 22 marked its second hit and run with a crowd of Ashland fans! Sponsored by the Ashland High School Student Council and Choruses to support the Metrowest YMCA, the event was a real success, with pride and spirit, to showcase the talent of Ashland's well sprung vocal cords.

The competition was narrowed down to 10 finalists after brutal preliminary rounds auditioning the best of the best from Ashland High. The startling talent of the freshman class made them half of these finalists! Making it a true homage to "American Idol," the Student Council even created a promotional video with standard questions like, "Why should you be the next 'Clocker Idol?'" and the contestant reacting to getting the "golden ticket to Hollywood" in front of the classic Clocker blue background.

The show began with enthusiastic hosts Kitzia Diaz and Katie Forcier revving up the crowd

for action and introducing the judges: Ms. Carreiro, Mr. McGann, Ms. Mercadante, Ms. St. Coeur, and Ms. Twomey. Sadly, the faculty and administrators didn't do the heavenly descent down the stairs like true "American Idol" judges. Nonetheless, they were quite good judges. They were not afraid to give both positive and negative feedback and even throw some sass in there, as well!

After ten dazzling performances from Haley Boccuzzi, Ethan Bourque, Ellen Bronstein, Julia Caruso, Nick Davis, Emilia Fonseca, Kiara Leak, Spencer Lezin, Alicia Mazuric and Peter Saxionis, the judges needed to make the tough decision selecting four contestants to move on to the final round. After careful deliberation, they picked Russian and Japanese classical singer Ellen B., bluesy singer Alicia Mazuric, powerhouse vocalist Emilia Fonseca, and soulful crooner Peter Saxionis to sing one more song.

After some spectacular singing, it was time to vote. Each audience member was given five tickets as they entered, so they could vote for any of the four contestants distributing their tickets as they desired. After a



Clocker Idol 10 finalists. (Photo/submitted)



Clocker Idol winner, Peter Saxionis. (Photo/submitted)

breath-taking and I can't wait to see what he does next. His smile lit up the room as he received his big check and by the end of the night, he was covered with lipstick on his cheeks, just like an "American Idol" winner.

In addition to pumping up Ashland pride, "Clocker Idol" was one of the Student Council's major events as a widely successful fundraising event raising \$1,169 for the Metrowest YMCA.

As a person with less singing talent than a frying pan, it was remarkable to see my friends burst out of their bubbles and let their expertise shine through for one night for a great cause. For more about the happenings at Ashland High School through my eyes, keep reading my monthly column :)

10- minute intermission filled with snacks and chatter, the competition began again with a performance from last year's "Clocker Idol" season 1 winner, Emily Finnegan, before an-

nouncing the season 2 winner.

The winner was *drumroll, please* freshman PETER SAXIONIS with his vulnerable rendition of Sia's "Chandelier" at the piano. His voice was absolutely

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