

Vocal Music Teacher of the Year Award

Presented by The Houston Choral Society and ConocoPhillips

2009 Award Recipient - Ms. Catherine Wafford

Langham Creek High School, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

In the fall of 2008, the Board of Directors of The Houston Choral Society and ConocoPhillips decided to recognize the excellent work of the area vocal music teachers by setting up an annual award for the Vocal Music Teacher of the Year. For the 2009 award, nominations were solicited from the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD middle and high school vocal teachers.

The winner of this award for 2009 is Ms. Catherine Wafford from CFISD's Langham Creek High School. Ms. Wafford received her award plaque and a check for \$500 in a brief ceremony at the start of our April 25th concert. (see the photo of the ceremony below)

Ms. Wafford was nominated for this award by a former student who is now a colleague in the CFISD music program. Ms. Wafford has demonstrated an ability to attract students to the music program and develop them into true musicians. She has worked tirelessly to create musical and social traditions. Over the past ten years, Ms. Wafford has built a choir program that has become the standard of excellence in Texas. Choirs from her school win various awards at festivals and receive superior ratings at UIL Concerts and Sightreading Contests. Her choir has been selected as an honor choir at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention **four** times! To be asked to sing at the TMEA Convention once is quite an honor, but four invitations is an outstanding record! Ms. Wafford has created a reputation for her high school's choir program that is legendary among choral directors in Texas and beyond. She understands young people, meets them where they live and gives them what they need. She has high expectations and demands excellence. She loves kids and loves music!

The Houston Choral Society looks forward to a growing awareness of this award program in the local ISDs. We are happy to have this means of encouraging vocal music teachers in our community to continue their excellent work!



Catherine Wafford (left), from Cy-Fair ISD's Langham Creek High School, receives the first annual Vocal Music Teacher of the Year Award, sponsored by The Houston Choral Society and ConocoPhillips. HCS Board members, Pat Shadle and Michael Craig made the award presentation to Ms. Wafford at the HCS spring concert "**From Bluegrass to Brahms**" on Saturday April 25, 2009 at The Foundry United Methodist Church, 8350 Jones Rd, Houston, TX 77065.