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**Choirs, flute ensemble perform during annual Carol Concerts**

*Summary: University of Minnesota, Morris choirs will present the annual Carol Concerts surrounding this year's theme, "Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas Tonight," on November 30 and December 1 in the Morris Area Schools Concert Hall.*

(November 16, 2007)-University of Minnesota, Morris choirs will present the annual Carol Concerts surrounding this year's theme, "Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas Tonight," beginning with a November 30 performance at 7:30 p.m. in the Morris Area Schools Concert Hall. A matinee performance will be given on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. followed by an evening performance at 7:30 p.m. It is rumored that Frosty the Snowman may make an appearance!

A Christmas Flute Ensemble, directed by Jeanne Richards, UMM music faculty, and accompanied by Adair Horgen of Morris will provide a prelude concert before each performance.

UMM choirs director Hodgson commented on the location of the concert: "The advantages are that the Morris Area Concert Hall holds more people . . . and gives everyone a chance to see the performance. It also helps to build a sense of community between the on-campus and the off-campus Morris community and creates stronger ties."

Hodgson has been involved with the choir since his arrival at UMM in 1978. He developed the Carol Concert shortly after his arrival to add to the existing University Choir and the newly formed Messiah Choir. The Carol Concert evolved to be more sophisticated and addresses the three parts of the season Advent, the nativity and the celebration, according to Hodgson.

"I truly believe the concert brings people together. . . singing Christmas Carols together, some of the best music ever written. . . it's amazing. . . it is great to get the audience involved," added Hodgson. "This is a chance for the choir to perform extremely well, to develop professionalism and poise. Unless an artist has the chance to do their very best, they never will. The Carol Concert gives students that opportunity to follow through. . ."

Concert tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, senior citizens and children. Bello Cucina restaurant of Morris will again provide "A Festive Feast" prior to each concert for the additional cost of \$10 for all students and adults and \$6 for children under 12. Tickets are on sale in the UMM Student Center and can also be ordered through the UMM Music Office. For ticket information, contact the Music Office at (320) 589-6234.

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