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#### **Concert Choir begins spring tour**

#### Summary:

(February 25, 2004)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Hodgson, will begin its 2004 East Coast and Canadian concert tour on Saturday, Feb. 28, with a performance in Sleepy Eye. The tour will also stop in cities in Delaware, Maryland, New York, Maine, and Canada.

A home concert, which will culminate the tour on Thursday, March 18, will be held at Assumption Catholic Church in Morris at 7:30 p.m.

The first portion of each tour performance is highlighted by Gregorian Chant, and works of Bach, Berger and F. Melius Christiansen. The second half features a selection by Debussy, among others, a section of folk songs and spirituals and, finally, the Choir's haunting Hebrew farewell song, "Shalom Chaverim," arranged by Hodgson.

Admission for each performance is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken.

The UMM Concert Choir was founded by Hodgson in 1978, and has since established a national and international reputation with several East and West Coast tours, and performances throughout the Midwest. The choir has also traveled through central Canada and to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, England, Scotland and Wales.

In 1997 and again in 2001, the Choir was invited to perform along with the Minnesota Chorale, St. John's Men's Choir and Concordia, St. Paul Men's Choir, Shoenberg's "Gurre-Lieder" with the Minnesota Orchestra, under the baton of Eiji Oui. The Choir returned to the stage at Orchestra Hall and worked again with Oui, the Minnesota Orchestra and the Minnesota Oratorio Society in a series of performances of Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony." In 1998, the Choir performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, providing the choral parts for Ravel's mini-opera "L'Enfant et les Sortileges."

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