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**Concert Choir tours the West Coast**

*Summary: Travel adventures, warm weather, and most importantly, opportunities to share their music await UMM Concert Choir members on their 2006 Spring Break West Coast Tour.*

(March 2, 2006)-During spring break, the University of Minnesota, Morris Concert Choir will perform in California, Oregon and Washington. The West Coast Tour begins on March 3 in Etiwanda, Calif., and ends on March 12 in Lynnwood, Wash., with a final performance on March 17 when the group returns to Morris.

UMM students are very excited about the opportunity to travel and sing. Natalie Kinsky '06, Woodbury, a psychology and human services major and music minor, is looking forward to "going to a part of the country that a bunch of us haven't been to before and bonding more with the choir members." She was also thrilled about "the opportunity to sing in new places and sharing our music with others." Alex Carlson '08, Cottage Grove, a theater and economics major and history minor, adds another reason for enjoying the West Coast Tour: "I'm looking forward to the warm weather!"

Kinsky, the Concert Choir's student manager, and Concert Choir President Terri Jo Schuft '06, Stewart, coordinate many of the "behind the scenes" tasks while on tour. They supervise work crews, organize rehearsals and facilitate the pairing of hosts with UMMers at each stop on the tour. Members of the Concert Choir enjoy the hospitality of home-stays for many of their evenings on the road. Ken Hodgson, associate professor of music and choir director, shared: "In the past, many students have formed long-lasting bonds with their host families."

The students will also enjoy scheduled free time throughout their trip. They will have a free day in Los Angeles to visit a few "tourist traps" and to lounge in the sunshine and warmth of beautiful West Coast beaches. Noted Carlson, "I'm really excited to be in Los Angeles the day before the Oscars!"

The West Coast Tour should be great fun for everyone involved, in addition to providing an important, integral facet of Concert Choir participation. "We're professional artists and performing is part of that experience," stated Hodgson.

Spring 2006 Concert Choir West Coast Tour

March 3, Etiwanda, California  
Etiwanda High School, 7:30 p.m.

March 4, San Luis Obispo, California  
Cal Poly, 7:30 p.m.

March 5, Salinas, California  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,  
3 p.m.

March 6, Napa, California  
Napa High School, 7 p.m.

March 7, Medford, Oregon  
North Medford High School, 7 p.m.

March 8, Bandon, Oregon  
Sprague Community Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

March 10, Beaverton, Oregon  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.

March 11, Oak Harbor, Washington  
Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.

March 12, Lynnwood, Washington  
Trinity Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.

March 17, Morris, Minnesota  
Assumption Church, 7:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact the University of Minnesota, Morris music office at [vanepsja@morris.umn.edu](mailto:vanepsja@morris.umn.edu) or 320-589-6234.

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