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Seattle World's Fair

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News Release from:
University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota
May 4, 1962

For Immediate Release

The 1962 World's Fair in Seattle is the goal of 36 students at the University of Minnesota, Morris who comprise the UMM Men's Chorus. Confirmation was received this week that the chorus will appear on the official state program on Minnesota Day, June 12. They will be the only University group to appear on the program.

Directed by Ralph E. Williams, associate professor of music at UMM, the choral group is currently trying to generate their own funds for the trip by setting up a series of concerts in western Minnesota communities between now and June 8 when they plan to leave for Seattle.

Concerts are scheduled in Elbow Lake on May 6, Benson on May 13, Morris on May 16, Clinton on May 20 and Ortonville on May 21. Tentative dates are set for Appleton, Glenwood and other area communities.

The tartan plaid-clad singers, all of whom are freshmen or sophomores at UMM, represent 24 Minnesota communities from Luverne in the southwestern tip of the state to Warren in the northwest corner. Almost a third of them also play in the UMM concert band, several are members of the UMM symphony orchestra and many also sing in the mixed chorus.

Professor Williams, who conducts the orchestra and all campus choral groups, is the composer of 75 original published choral works which have been widely used by choruses across the nation. Before joining the faculty at the Morris campus in 1960 he taught voice and choral work at the University's St. Paul campus and directed the well-known Apollo Club of Minneapolis for four years.