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

For Immediate Release

It's official at last! The Men's Chorus of the University of Minnesota, Morris, who will present a concert in Benson next Sunday, will definitely sing at the Seattle World's Fair.

Confirmation was received this week that the chorus will appear at the Fair on the official state program on Minnesota Day, June 12. They will be the only University group to appear on the program.

The Benson concert, scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. Sunday in the high school auditorium is one of a series of concerts in western Minnesota communities being set up to raise funds for the trip, according to Larry Erickson, 1962 freshman from Benson, who is serving as manager. He extended an invitation to all residents of the area to enjoy a delightful performance while aiding the chorus in achieving their World's Fair goal. Tickets are one dollar for adults and 50 cents for students.

Directed by Ralph E. Williams, associate professor of music at UMS, the 36-voice men's chorus has developed a repertory that includes spirituals, religious works, folk songs, popular numbers and anthems.

The Benson concert will include several of the numbers that the group will sing at the World's Fair including an original composition by Professor Williams, "Born to Be Free;" Tschmesnokoff's "Let Thy Holy Presence;" "Onward, Ye Peoples!" by Sibelius, and several spirituals such as "Rock-A My Soul" and "Climbin' Up the Mountain." On the lighter side will be an arrangement of "Mood Indigo." One of the final selections will be a perennial favorite of the chorus, "Russian Picnic" by Enders.

The intermission will feature a piano duo with the chorus' accompanists, Kay Jeranger and LaAnn Hruby, both of Morris, playing several pieces.

MORE

The men's chorus has been highly popular with audiences in western Minnesota since it was first organized by Professor Williams in the fall of 1960. The choral group recently completed a successful spring tour of south-western Minnesota communities and made appearances on the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses of the University of Minnesota. This will be the chorus' first concert in Benson. *Antonville*

The tartan plaid-clad singers, all of whom are freshmen or sophomores at UMM, represent 24 Minnesota communities from Laverne in the southwestern tip of the state to Warren in the northwestern corner. *(leave out)* Two other Benson area students, Bob Espelien of Cloutarf and Sid Messner of Hancock, are members of the chorus.)

Almost a third of the group 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, 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.