

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

5-11-1962

Men's Chorus Goes to Ortonville

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

News Release from:
University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota
May 11, 1962

For Immediate Release

Three Ortonville young men will appear with the University of Minnesota, Morris Men's Chorus when the group presents its "World's Fair" concert next Monday, April 21, in Ortonville. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Don McCarville, Gary Johnson, and Orrin Scholberg, all of Ortonville, are sophomores at UMM. According to the trio, the chorus will leave Morris on June 8 for Seattle and the 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 Ortonville concert is one of a series of concerts in western Minnesota communities being set up to raise funds for the trip, according to Lanny Erickson, UMM 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 UMM, the 36-voice Men's Chorus has developed a repertory that includes spirituals, religious works, folk songs, popular numbers and anthems.

The Ortonville concert will consist of several of the numbers that the group will sing at the World's Fair including an original composition by Professor Ralph Williams, "Born to Be Free"; Tschnesnokoff'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 Joranger and LeAnn Hruby, both of Morris, playing several pieces.

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 southwestern 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 Ortonville.

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 northwestern corner. 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.