

E2 South Bend Tribune

COMMUNITY

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Big Sing coming this Saturday to the Morris

■ Michiana Male Chorus to join with 10 other choirs.
by RACHEL REYNOLDS
Tribune Correspondent

In a brightly lit room in a local church, between 25 and 35 men gather every Monday night to blend their tenor, baritone and bass voices into harmonies that soothe and songs that inspire. Each voice is unique and respected.

The Michiana Male Chorus practices weekly, and it is currently getting ready for its annual Big Sing at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Morris Performing Arts Center in South Bend. The Michiana Male Chorus will be joined in the Big Sing by 10 other male choirs from around the region, totaling more than 250 singers. Members of the Michiana Male Chorus reside in several area communities.

"To me, it's a sound like no other," said Bob Nielsen, 81, of Mishawaka, who sings bass. He has been singing with the Michiana Male Chorus since it was formed in 1985.



Wilbur Domello rehearses with the Michiana Male Chorus at First Christian Church in South Bend.

"It's very enjoyable to sing with that many men on stage," he said. "You can take a breath and they don't miss you."

Vike Vaidelovics, 61, of Buchanan, who sings first tenor, agreed.

"I think it's pretty exciting when you feel like 'I,'" he said.

Dan Clark, 55, of Niles, joined the chorus a few months ago and sings first tenor.

"Of course you have a tremendous

amount of power with a male voice," Clark said.

Each male chorus will sing their own piece, and then all 11 choirs will join together to sing seven additional songs. Songs by the whole group include "Volunteering," "Volunteering," "I'll Be There," "I'll Be There," "Why We Sing," and others. Most are accompanied by a piano but a couple also will be accompanied by a flute and violin.

Tickets for the concert are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors, and children under 5 years old are free. They are available at the Morris Performing Arts Center or from any male chorus member.

One of the noticeable things about the Michiana Male Chorus is that most of its members are in their 60s, 70s and 80s. A few are in their 50s. The group looks distinguished.

"The majority are retired men but there are some younger ones," said Ron Hodgson, 72, a first tenor who is the chorus business manager. "We're looking for recruits."

John Cramer, 74, of Mishawaka, a baritone who has been with the chorus for 23 years, added, "We're always looking for younger singers."

The only woman on hand during practice is piano accompanist Miriam Hosack, 40, of South Bend.

"They're a great bunch of guys," she said. "They're just very talented men who like singing. They treat me very well, they respect me as my sister. And our director is awesome."

Robert Martin, 47, of Mishawaka, has been directing the chorus for nearly 10 years.

"Music is my life," he said. "I have been since I was 1 year old. I like the sound of men's voices singing together."

Martin said the group sings a variety of sacred, patriotic, spiritual, folk and show tunes among others. However, they do not sing barbershop.

Some of the men, including Nielsen and Cramer, have been singing in male choirs in the area for more than 50 years. Prior to the formation of the Michiana Male Chorus 23 years ago, a number of men were members of the Bendis, Studebaker and South Bend Elks Club men's choirs.

"It's always been my hobby my whole life," said Cramer. "I've always joked that it keeps me off the streets and out of trouble."

PET OF THE WEEK



Van Damme and Jean Claude are 6-month-old standard black poodles available from PetsConnect. They are intelligent, eager to please and affectionate. These brothers enjoy playing with other dogs and are fine with cats. Both are crate trained and close to being house trained. Both boys are part of the DAYLIGHT program, where they travel weekly to a local youth shelter facility for socialization and training. The adoption fee is \$200 per dog. They are neutered, up to date on their shots, tested negative for heartworm, are on Interceptor, Frontline plus and have been microchipped. Their adoption fee includes a Lysine breast collar and leash as well as the registration for the micro chip to the owner's name. See contact information below.

Pets are available for adoption from these agencies:

- PetsConnect Inc., P.O. Box 8104, South Bend, IN 46608-8104. Phone: (574) 282-1225. Web site: www.petsconnect.org
- Humane Society of St. Joseph County, 2506 Grape Road, Mishawaka. Phone: (574) 255-4726. Web site: www.humanesociety.org
- Pet Refuge Inc., 2300 W. Sixth St., Mishawaka. Phone: (574) 256-0886. Web site: www.petrefuge.com
- Animal Control of South Bend, 105 S. Olive St., South Bend. Phone: (574) 235-9303. Web site: www.smbc.petfinder.org
- Elkhart Humane Society, 64667 County Road 19, Bristol, IN 46507. Phone: (574) 948-4225. Web site: www.elkharthumanesociety.org

For general information about adopting the right pet for you and caring for it, as well as links to area pet adoption Web sites, visit the Web site www.hoodierpets.com.

New Orleans pastor to visit local church

The Rev. Charles Dupless, pastor of the Mount Nabo Bible Baptist Church of New Orleans, will talk about the rebuilding of New Orleans churches and homes at 7 p.m. today at Kern Road Memorial Church, 18211 Kern Road, South Bend.

Churches Supporting Churches, an organization that partners New Orleans churches with churches across the country in an effort to rebuild Gulf Coast communities and churches.

For more information, call (574) 291-0824.

FROM PAGE E1

Five: 'Classics' include a variety

1. "The Gatsby"

Shekspir wrote more than 40 film scores, from cartoons to serious drama. This is

one of the most enjoyable. It has light as well as in tense moments. And it stands apart well from the film, which is something not all film scores do. (It also gave us a theme for a 1987 PBS series).

2. "Dante's Inferno" - This Canadian ensemble takes a satirical approach to the classics. Their albums feature classical works as well as unique and fun arrangements of folk music, popular tunes and opera.

If you think you'll never like

classical music, try this group before giving up.

3. "Bach's Brandenburgs" - Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos wrote these in tribute in the spirit of the baroque master, J.S. Bach.

They vary from orchestral to chamber works. Some are light. Some more demanding. Try the Brahms Brahmsens numbers 1, 4, 7, or 9. Villa-Lobos challenges the notion that all great classical music must come from East or West.

4. "Don Carlo Gesualdo" -

"Madrigals." Gesualdo is a man of the Renaissance involved in the politics and court intrigue of the time.

He also is an artist. The harmonies of these works are striking.

5. "Three Modern Symphonies" - Edward Tubb, Robert Simpson and Haverhill Brian. For those who want something a little more contemporary, the Estonian conductor/composer Eduard Tubb's work, because more exposed with the change of politics in the Baltic

States.

Robert Simpson caught the eye of the New Foundation - the Arts fund of the hand. The Grateful Dead, who felt his music deserved exposure.

They paid or assisted in several recordings of his chamber and symphonic works. Among the composers, Simpson helped in Britain was Haverhill Brian.

Brian could not resist the lure of music. He loved to show his scores to anyone interested, which is why it took a while to

gather them all back together as a group.

His 22 symphonies vary in size, style and form - from the gigantic forces of the first symphony to chamber size ensembles.

Give the Five, which come primarily in the Community Section, and people in the local music business to tell us about their favorite five songs. CDs or mp3s, a great party or even a picnic. It's all yours to choose from. Like that - but as if it was yours to choose from.

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