

Chorale previews its tour program

By JOANNE K. FSENEKA

The Discovery Youth Chorale, which will tour Austria, Germany, Holland, Switzerland and Belgium, July 10-30, gave a preview concert at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills recently.

Europeans should be pleased with the exuberant selections presented by these 20 high school and college age men and women.

The young women were colorfully attired in two-piece dresses of vivid lemon, peach, lime and sky blue. The men wore dark suits.

They are an attractive group, matched to an assured sound consisting of nine sopranos, five altos, three tenors and three basses.

John Dovorav, musical director of the chorale, has rehearsed the group to a point that is pleasing. Only four are music majors, the remaining reflect Dovorav's tutelage with good results.

Dovorav said he has made eight tours with the group which began in 1959. He explained the chorale is not connected to Kirk in the Hills. However, the church provides a place to rehearse.

Dovorav wears additional musical hats. He is music director at Kirk in the Hills and choral director at Oakland University, Rochester.

THE PREVIEW program began with two chorales by J.S. Bach. Alto were gently uplifting in the first. In the second, the singers gave an impressive "Sleepers, Wake, a Voice is Sounding."

The Schubert Mass in G selections were expressive. Tension intended by the composer in the score was well-interpreted. Christina Goforth, solo soprano in the Kyrie, charmed the audience with the beauty of her voice.

During the Credo, accompanist Jill Simmons distinguished herself as a strong, sensitive pianist.

Two "spirituals," "Shout On" and "Rock My Soul," marked a change in mood. The first spiritual demonstrated the musical flexibility of the singers. The second was a lively round with tempo variations with the refrain.

THE AUDIENCE was also treated to a series of operatic excerpts.

"Lovely Stars" (from Lucie Care) was smoothly done. Mozart's "Placido e il Mar" (from Idomeneo) was memorable, sung in Italian and adorned by a sparkling piano accompaniment. Soprano Rosemary Hoagland drew applause for her strongly dramatic interpretation.

Another Mozart aria "Quietly Will I Now Complain" (from Mi Lagnera Taccendo) offered an interesting contrast of male and female voices in a lover's lament.

The operatic section of the program concluded with an Offenbach novelty, "Thy Neighbors' Chorus" (from La Jolie Parfumeuse), an amusingly enjoyable bit of musical gossip. This song, which seemed borrowed from the best of comic opera, had a typical Rossini-like ending.

IN THE MODERN vein, the Discovery Chorale glided into a program conclusion of typically American music, especially designed to represent the country abroad. The group appealed directly to the audience in Billings' "Modern Music." "Goin' to Boston" was fun.

"Flowers of Beauty" by Clements was lilting and poetic, picture-music for listeners to dream on.

Tim Humphrey conducted the group in a familiar medley from "Oliver." The songs were boisterous and gay.

Those going to Europe are: William Albert, Peter DeLong, Denise Gehman, Diane Genevieve, Christina Goforth, Rosemary Hoagland, Timothy Humphrey, Lynn Kasch, Linda Marshall, Sue Ann Newby, Jeff Petherick, David Proctor, Jill Simmons, Susan Stone, Laura Thompson, Barbara Vandegriff and Diane Voelgel.

The singers will give a post-tour concert at Kirk in the Hills July 31.

Basic training completed for Holzhaus

Pvt. John C. Holzhaus, son of Mary A. Holzhaus, 21322 Jefferson, Farmington, has completed basic training in Fort Knox, Ky.

During the training, he received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid and U.S. Army history and traditions.

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Avstin Galleries — Graphics by the popular Spaniard Alvar are on display at the branch galleries in Lakeside, Fairlane, Twelve Oaks malls through July.

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