

Livonia singer writes lyrics for 'Somewhere in Time'

BY MIKE MURPHY
SPECIAL WRITER

In the 22 years since it was first released, *Somewhere in Time* has gained somewhat of a cult-film status among hopeful romantics.

The story, which was filmed on Mackinac Island, allows a character played by Christopher Reeve to travel backward in time to find his true love.

Over the years, multiple Web sites devoted to the film have sprung up and some devotees even make pilgrimages to the northern Michigan island where they reenact the script.

Somewhere in Time also caught the fancy of Livonia resident Tom Morgan. Inspired by a muse named Anne Grobosky, Morgan put lyrics to the movie's theme music.

Morgan met Grobosky in 1986 after she joined the Ford Motor Company Chorus. Five years later, both Ford Motor Company

Chorus members were married, and Morgan said he owes much of his good fortune to the song.

"When I told her I wrote it for her, she was stunned," Morgan said.

Morgan's *Somewhere in Time* was recorded at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island by a scatted-down version of the chorus called the Tempus.

Proceeds from the CD will benefit Children's Hospital and the Christopher Reeve Foundation.

It's one of many projects that the 70-member Ford Motor Company Chorus is involved in. Morgan, a former president of the chorus and currently the group's public relations director, is behind most of them.

"I'm like a big cheerleader. I try to get them involved in things," Morgan said.

Besides taking the chorus to Mackinac Island, the 48-year-old heating and cooling specialist

who's been singing with the chorus for 26 years, has arranged to have the group record in the depths of Detroit's Crystal Salt Mines.

Retired Ford electrical engineer Milt Jordan has been singing with the Ford chorus for nearly 40 years. He said Morgan has really had a positive effect on the group.

Exciting to work with

"He's a spark plug," Jordan said. "He's an exciting guy to work with."

Jordan, who now runs an accounting firm in Ann Arbor, has assisted Morgan with the business side of the compact disc release. He said *Somewhere in Time* is just beginning to make some money for its designated charities.

"It's been very modest," Jordan said. "We're not talking tons of money, but it displays the talents of the Ford chorus and gives

us a forum to work in."

In the past seven years, the chorus has embarked on three tours of Europe as well as tours of Michigan and the eastern United States.

The European trips have included visits to Germany, France and Italy, where the group sang for the pope.

One of the group's current major undertakings is the recording of a full-length compact disc called *Liberty*, which contains patriotic songs and is in the process of being recorded in a Houghton Lake church.

"The whole chorus is really excited about it," Morgan said. "It's a very spiritually uplifting CD and when people listen to it they're going to be very proud they're Americans. It instills a feeling in you that's kind of hard to describe."

Morgan said he first became interested in singing in public in 1976 when friends urged him to

go onstage at a local bar to sing a rendition of the Everly Brothers' *Cathy's Clown*. Morgan went over big and was asked back again.

Discouraged from singing in bars by his former wife, Morgan joined a church choir. Not long after that, a friend at Ford encouraged him to join the company's chorus.

Even though he no longer works at Ford and runs his own heating and cooling business, Morgan has stayed with the chorus. It's something he wouldn't readily give up, he said.

"I love to sing in the chorus," Morgan said. "It's like a big family. Everybody kind of looks out for each other and it's real nice."

And the chorus is also about helping others, which is something Morgan expects to do with the proceeds of *Somewhere in Time*.

"I play Santa Claus and I go to those hospitals and I see those

children," Morgan said. "I want to do something for the children."

According to Morgan, the Ford Motor Company Chorus is looking ahead to a busy spring and summer that will include local shows as well as a tour of northern Michigan and the east coast to promote *Liberty*.

Morgan said the east coast tour will include stops at West Point and Annapolis.

He's also working on getting the chorus to Ireland for a concert in St. Patrick's Cathedral at Trinity College in Dublin.

"Right now I think it's time to realize how lucky we are to live in this country," Morgan said. "Even though a lot of bad things happen, it's still a nicer place to live than just about any other place in the world."

Orders for *Somewhere in Time* and *Liberty* compact discs can be placed with Tom Morgan (734) 261-6579.

CD for charity: Tom Morgan shows off the lyrics he wrote for the film theme, *Somewhere in Time*. Proceeds from the CD he released will benefit the Christopher Reeve Foundation.



CLUB CIRCUIT

HILL & DALE

Hill & Dale Garden Club will meet 7 a.m. Thursday, June 13, at The Aldo Vagotski Visitors Center in Heritage Park.

EMBROIDERERS

The Farmington Hills Embroiders Guild will meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 5 at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills.

MUSICALS

The Farmington Musicals will

perform *Music, Music, Music* 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 5 at the downtown Farmington Library. A business meeting and luncheon will follow for members.

CAREER WOMEN

The National Association of Career Women, West Suburban Chapter, will meet 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 11 at Ernesto's in Plymouth. The featured speaker will be Amanda Sharrat from the Center for Employment & Economic Development.

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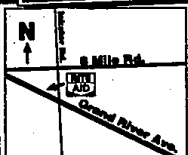
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