

Voice offered as liberty gift

By Mary Klomic
Staff writer

Musicians have given command performances before kings and queens. But when Livonia resident Caren Evans sang in New York Saturday she performed before a lady far greater than any royalty.

Evans, an outpatient registration clerk at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia, was among 1,000 people honoring the Statue of Liberty at its dedication ceremony July 5. She participated in a concert called "Liberty," presented by Concert Ministries Inc., a volunteer choir of which Evans is a member.

"Just the idea that we were selected (to perform) is an honor," said Evans, formerly of Farmington. "It's an honor to be one of the selected groups."

Evans' weekend in New York included two evenings on her own to view or attend festivities celebrating the Statue of Liberty's 100th anniversary. Choir members assembled at Caldwell College in Caldwell, N.J., Thursday for orientation and rehearsal. They performed in the harbor in New York Saturday afternoon, and at historic Town Hall in Times Square in Manhattan that night. Sunday afternoon they sang at Caldwell College.

THE CHOIR gave a sneak preview of "Liberty" on Memorial Day on the CBN network from Lakeland, Fla.

"Ten thousand were in attendance (in the audience), and it was so thrilling," Evans said. "That audience was electric. They were on their feet more than they were sitting down."

"It's exciting to see people get excited about their country," she said.

Evans, who sings first soprano, has been with the choir since it was formed some 15 years ago at the First Church of the Nazarene in Farmington Hills.

"I love music," she said. "It's always been a part of my life."

CONCERT MINISTRIES Inc. has chapters across the country. Its local members come from all over the metro Detroit area, including the communities of Livonia, Westland, Farmington, Plymouth and Northville.

In Michigan, CMI has performed in Ann Arbor and Flint. It was chosen to take part in the Statue of Liberty festivities after its president submitted a tape of the choir to the planning committee.

The organization is a way of reaching out to the community from the church, Evans said.

"It's all denominations coming together, joining hand in hand to sing," she said.

"We give primarily religious concerts, singing about prayers to God. Occasionally we do patriotic songs. We feel that our country is one nation under God."

The "LIBERTY" concert was accompanied by a slide presentation, a color guard and vignettes representing the Spirit of '76 and the two Jima memorial. This year, CMI formed a "Liberty Express" and traveled around the country giving concerts. The Liberty Express' slogan is, "America, You're Beautiful."

"I believe in what we're doing," Evans said. "It's building bridges for all denominations."

Col. Matt Irwin, called the most decorated American soldier, sang "God Bless America" at a recent performance. Irwin lost his voice when he was wounded in World



ART EMANUELE, staff photographer
Former Farmington resident Caren Evans sang in New York Saturday at the Statue of Liberty celebration. She was one of 1,000 volunteer members of the Concert Ministries choir group.

War II and underwent five years of therapy to regain it.

"He stole the show," Evans said. "Just the fact that he could even sing was absolutely overwhelming. It was a very moving experience."

CMI MEMBERS pay monthly dues of \$10 (individual) or family rates (\$6, \$7 or \$8 each, depending on how many persons from the same family) and travel expenses.

"It's not mandatory that you go to every performance," Evans said. "They are invitational because of the expense."

Evans is the membership and recruitment coordinator and staff secretary of the Michigan/Ohio Concert Choir, which has 300 members.

Her husband, James, manages the stage, lights and set-up at performances.

The Evans have been involved in other church activities, including missionary trips to Chicago. James visited Peru and Africa on similar trips.

Gifted program will be extended

The Clarenceville school district will extend its program for academically gifted students to the junior high level during the 1986-87 school year.

The district started its CHIP (Children with High Individual Potential) program for gifted elementary school students in both Batstord and Grandview elementary schools last year. Planning for a similar program in the senior high school is expected to be done this school year so it can be implemented in 1987-88. Clarenceville includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

THE JUNIOR high program was approved by the Clarenceville Board of Education last month. It is expected to be in place in November or December.

"Right now we really don't have a program as of yet," said Clarenceville Junior High School principal Daniel Kelly, chairman of the district's junior high school gifted sub-

committee. "We're putting one into place."

The sub-committee made recommendations for a junior high CHIP program.

STUDENTS FOR the new CHIP program were identified through the district's yearly achievement and aptitude tests. They will be grouped into one English class, which will be taught by two English teachers — one from seventh grade and one from the eighth. Plans are to train these teachers in September and October.

The junior high CHIP program will condense the district's English classes, so students will be able to take part in enrichment activities outside the classroom. These activities will be available to other students as well.

An informational meeting will be held for CHIP parents, as was done with the elementary school gifted program, Kelly said.

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Public opinion sought for local cable

MetroVision is looking for Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi residents and organizations to participate in the production of "Speak Out."

"Speak Out" is a program that will give people the chance to express opinions on any issue concern-

ing their community, state or country.

It will offer the public an opportunity to inform fellow citizens of various viewpoints and information on different issues.

The program will be scheduled to run on a regular basis once produc-

tion is under way.

Each individual will be allowed one minute to express opinions and will be allowed to read off a written script if necessary. If the person is under 18 years old, a release form must be signed by a parent or guardian. Profane language will not be permitted.

Anyone who is interested should contact Ann Gontarek in the production department at MetroVision, 553-7303, or send their opinion to, Speak Out, c/o MetroVision, 37635 Enterprise Court, Farmington Hills 48018.



DREAM MAKER

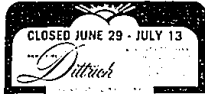
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