

THE MUSKEGON CHAMBER CHOIR

David Wikman - Music Director and Conductor

Ellen Cutting - Accompanist

PERSONNEL

Shanna Averill	Ginevra Naill
Kenneth L. Brown	Christine Neis
Ardythe Bulthouse	Denise Newell
James Crago	Diane Nye
Sheila Daniels	Dana Olsen
David Epplett	Roger Patton
Diane Goodman	Gail Smith
Doris Helmus	Leona Spoelman
Lucille Jager	David Stegink
Brenda Jeisy-Word	Bradley Taylor
G. Thomas Johnson	Don Timmer
Gail Kurdziel	Cynthia Bates Twining
Scott Lachniet	Suzanne VanPelt
Jeffrey Leder	Diane VanWesep
Judy Martz	Richard Veltman
Ruth Ann Matthews	James Webb
Kenneth Michnay	Wesley Wiethoff
Linda Mysen	Carol Wilhelm

THE MUSKEGON CHAMBER CHOIR

"YA GOTTA BE 80"



Saturday, May 13, 2000
St. Mary's Church

YA' GOTTA BE 80

Program

I

- Some Folks Do Stephen C. Foster
- I Dream of Jeanie Stephen C. Foster
David Epplett - soloist
- We'll Always be the Same Sweethearts W.R. Williams & Olive Newman
Linda Mysen - soprano
- Gentle Lena Clare Stephen C. Foster
- Leave Me With A Smile Earl Burneth & Charles Koehler
Diane VanWesep - soprano
- The Little Brown Church William S. Pitts
Sheila Daniels, Shanna Averill
Don Timmer, Roger Patton
- Because Guy d'Hardelot
Carol Wilhelm - soprano
- Annie Laurie Lady John Scott, arr. Gail Kubik
- Irish Lullaby Traditional, arr. Keith Abbs

II

- All Through the Night Old Welsh Air, arr. Vaclav Nelhybel
Denise Newell, Cynthia Twining - soloists
- Wait for the Wagon R. Bishop Buckley, arr. Ralph Hunter & Robert Shaw
Bradley Taylor - soloist
- Stars of the Summer Night Isaac Woodbury, arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw
- Bonnie Eloise John Rogers Thomas, arr. Hunter & Shaw
Bradley Taylor - soloist
- Grandfather's Clock Henry C. Work, arr. Hunter & Shaw
Dana Olsen - soloist

INTERMISSION - FIFTEEN MINUTES

III

- Get Happy Ted Kohler & Harold Arlen, arr. Mack Huff
- It Happened In Old Monterey Billy Rose & Mabel Lane
James Webb - tenor
- Singin' in the Rain Arthur Reed & Nacio Herb Brown, arr. Anita Kerr
- I Never Knew Pitts, Eagan & Marsh
Genevra Naill - soprano
- Bye, Bye Blackbird Mort Dixon & Ray Henderson, arr. Jay Althouse
Gail Smith and David Epplett - soloists
- Mood Indigo Duke Ellington, arr. Ed Lojeski
Cindy Twining - soloist
- Stardust Hoagy Carmichael
- Lazy Bones Johnny Mercer and Hoagy Carmichael
Diane Goodman - alto
- Alexander's Ragtime Band Irving Berlin, arr. Harry Simeone

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As a matter of fact you really didn't have to be 80, did you? There is, however, such a wealth of music that our octogenarian friends grew up with, or saw born, that we thought we should pay a tribute to it. It is decently crafted music. It has all the elements in place: melody, rhythm, and harmony. Perhaps not all the texts are great poetry, but they are nonetheless decent lyrics and given the space we could print them in the program without embarrassment. Best of all, this is "do it yourself music." It does not need \$100,000 worth of ear-splitting electronic equipment. For the most part, it needs one to four singers, a piano, and two to five sensitive human beings. Thank you for joining us.

THE MUSKEGON CHAMBER CHOIR
2000-2001 SEASON

- J.S. Bach - Mass in B Minor - Saturday, October 21, 8 P.M.
Mona Sheres High School Auditorium
- Neighbors - Music of Mexico and Canada - Saturday, January 27, 8 P.M.
St. Mary's Church
- Folksongs - Music of the United States - Saturday, May 5, 8 P.M.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Ya didn't have to be 80 to enjoy choir

By Bill Seeback
CHRONICLE SPECIAL WRITER

It was a bit like cleaning out the refrigerator - last night's casserole, a bit of something wrapped in foil, left over vegetables meant for soup or stew, and the remains of mom's delicious banana cream pie.

However, conductor David Wikman called it "Ya' Gotta Be 80," the season finale for the Muskegon Chamber Choir. The 36-member choir performed at St. Mary's church to a good-size and enthusiastic audience Saturday evening.

The idea was to put in place a collection of chestnuts, mostly, that are seldom, if ever, programmed these days utilizing full choir, ensembles and soloists. This reviewer found it wasn't necessary to be 80 to enjoy the varied fare however. The program contained folk songs, pop selections (old and older), some Stephen Foster, and, presumably, some favorites of individual choir members.

Space doesn't allow us to review all 25 selections, but here are some of the highlights. The full choir opened with three Stephen Foster songs. The arrangements were excellent and maintained the honest simplicity of Fos-

REVIEW

The Chamber Choir has programmed the massive J. S. Bach "Mass in B Minor" for next fall in observance of the 250th commemoration of his death.

ter's intentions. The singers displayed good balance and musical phrasing. The tenor section sound was exceptional with a pleasing purity of tone and on-the-button pitch.

The Gail Kubik arrangement of "Annie Laurie" and the Vaclav Nelhybel handling of "All Through the Night" brought new dimensions to these thoroughly familiar works. The Nelhybel employed the women's sections of the choir with soloists Denise Newell and Cynthia Twining. It was one of the high points in the concert. The other was Ed Lojeski's arrangement of Duke Ellington's "Mood Indigo," another selection for women with Twining as

soloist.

The Ralph Hunter/Robert Shaw and the Alice Parker/Robert Shaw choral arrangements aren't programmed often any longer. The men's ensemble performed four from this repertoire. Although there were some ambiguous pitches in the basses and baritones at times, the success of these arrangements still was apparent - well crafted and musical. Bradley Taylor and Dana Olsen were the featured soloists.

The unmistakable Fred Waring choral style was evident in the arrangement of Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust." And, although that's a style long past, this writer finds a comfort level developed in his youth from listening to the weekly radio shows of Waring's Pennsylvanians.

Anita Kerr displayed wit and whimsy in her arrangement of "Singin' in the Rain" for women. And would any pops choral program be complete without a Harry Simeone, predictable arrangement? This time "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

Either the audience was anxious to get home or they thoroughly enjoyed the evening was made evident by the sudden leap to feet at evening's end.