

University Concert Choir gets civic recognition

Professor Larry Cook, director of the University of Alberta Concert Choir received an award of thanks from the City of Edmonton, presented by Mayor Ivor Dent, Friday, September 27. The certificate was in recognition of community service in representing the City of Edmonton at Expo '74 in Spokane earlier this summer.

Mayor Dent pointed out that Edmonton and the University of Alberta are capable of being represented by talent at the international level as exemplified by the Concert Choir.

For those of you who don't know who or what is the Concert Choir, be careful!! They are not the Mixed Chorus. The Concert Choir, now in its fifth official year, was organized by the Department of Music to be its official chorus.

It grew out of the Department of Music Chorus and the Mixed Chorus, both initiated by the late R.S. Eaton.

Since then the Concert Choir has played an important part in choral music on the University campus and beyond. It has given over 120 programs and performances both on campus and throughout Alberta, singing at conventions, workshops, University functions, churches, and hospitals.

In addition to regular evening programs and school concerts, the Choir has made several radio and television appearances. In its brief four year history more than 11,000 adults and 12,000 school children have heard and enjoyed the performance of the Concert Choir.

Now in his second season as director of the Concert Choir, Professor Larry Cook brings to this organization a wide and varied background in the performance of choral music. He has done graduate study in choir and organ at Syracuse University, Iowa, and Staatliche

Hochschule fur Musik in Frankfurt. Professor Cook looks forward to furthering the appreciation of choral music, especially here on campus.

The membership of Concert Choir is drawn from all faculties and is open to any student who is interested and qualified. All faculties are well represented in this year's total of sixty singers. All are fused together by their common love of singing.

The highlight of the Concert Choir season is the spring tour. Usually of seven to nine days duration, it gives the members of the Choir a well-deserved holiday after writing final exams in April, and also gives the people of Alberta a chance to experience live choral performance of a high calibre, music which they would otherwise not have the opportunity to hear close at hand. Another outcome of the tour is that many families are exposed to students from the University of Alberta on a very close basis, since the accommodation for the Choir is provided by billeting the members into homes in the community. The publicity for the U of A itself could be considered invaluable.

The primary focus of the Spring Tour is to visit centres within the province of Alberta. Last season this was not neglected: the Choir performed in Olds, Vulcan, Nanton, Milk River, Cardston, Blairmore, and Fernie B.C. The high point however came as a result of an invitation to perform at the 'Festival of Entertainment' at Expo '74 on May 5 and 6, 1974.

The Concert Choir was the first Edmonton group to perform at the World's Fair. Most of the performances were given at the Alberta pavilion, an open-air amphitheatre on Canada Island. While the performance conditions and acoustics were far from ideal, the audiences were very appreciative. The intimate



Concert Choir director Larry Cook receives award from Mayor Dent.

atmosphere afforded the audience the opportunity to mingle with the Choir after the performances.

Three groups performed as part of the Concert Choir presentation; the forty-voice Concert Choir, and two small groups taken from it -- the Madrigal Singers, and the Folk Singers.

In addition to the performances on the World's Fair site, the Concert Choir performed at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes in Spokane city proper, on the evening of May 4.

Later during the summer the three groups that performed received Certificates of Appreciation from Expo '74,

and just recently the award from the City of Edmonton.

Keep an eye out for a performance of Part 1 of Handel's Messiah in late November and the Department of Music Christmas Concert in early December.

For more information please contact Jan Grude at 489-0415 or Larry Cook at 432-5306.

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