

'Terrific' Singers, Conductor Coordinate Talent To Entertain

by Jan Ellis

Choral groups this year are "terrific," according to Dr. Robert Baxter, enthusiastic Madrigal Singers, choir, and chorus director, and music department chairman. Both the choir and the Madrigal Singers have many extracurricular performances scheduled throughout the 1970-71 year, and ideas are still being formulated.

The Madrigal Singers, a selected group of 13 seniors who sing entirely self-sufficient, have been more enthusiastic and imaginative than many groups in the past. These self-sufficient singers are led by president Jim Latshaw and student leaders Bob Oganovic and Claudia Wigent.

Starting early this fall, the Madrigals sang at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church and the Arlington Lions Club. They also provided the entertainment at the Leadership Training Conference here in October. Trying to make their programs as interesting as possible, they have suggested to Dr. Baxter a number of popular songs, along with the classics, to be of interest to diversified audiences. "Close to You" and "Wedding Bell Blues" were two of the popular choices at the Leadership Training Conference.

For the Madrigal Singers' three scheduled performances at junior high schools, other possible numbers include "King of the Road," "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," "Scarborough Fair," "Easy to Be Hard," and "Save the Country."

Dr. Baxter has the final word on which songs are appropriate before he arranges them. During the Key Elementary School program November 6, the young students seemed to especially enjoy "Jhon, Come Kiss Me Now," in which the girls and boys pair up and sing to each other.

Dedication of the new library, November 22, was the occasion for another performance. They will perform in the combined chorus, choir and band concert, December 4, and the State Department has invited the Madrigals to sing for dignitaries at a formal occasion.

During the Christmas holidays, the Madrigal Singers will appear on WMAL television, and they will tape a Christmas program for the Harden and Weaver Show on WMAL radio. Christmas Eye is set for singing at the Pageant of Peace on the White House Ellipse from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

This active group rises early every morning for a one-hour practice before school. Practice, along with their talent, promises to bring enjoyment throughout the year.

Another diligent group is the choir, with 89 members, under president Louis Burkot.

They sang at Sunday morning services at the National Cathedral November 8, for the opening of a week of prayer for world fellowship by the YWCA. The choir is the only high school group ever to be asked to sing at such an occasion.

After the Thanksgiving assembly, intensified practice will begin for the Choir and Orchestra Christmas concert scheduled for December 18 at 8 p.m. This concert will also present other senior high choral groups of Arlington County. The

choir also has accepted an invitation to sing at the last home Washington Redskin game, Sunday, December 20.

Plans for 1971 are tentative. The choir does plan to return to National Cathedral for a program of sacred music next spring, and they also sing at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

This is Dr. Baxter's first year as sole conductor of all three choral groups. When asked how he felt about his position, the dedicated leader replied, "It's terrific, I wouldn't be any other place. I'm very proud of all my groups."



Framed in the heights of National Cathedral, the choir sings at a YWCA service.

Crossed Sabres

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