

The Daily Telegram

Lenawee, Michigan

Bound for New York: Community chorus, Adrian College choir to perform next week at Carnegie Hall

By Dwight Leonard
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ADRIAN - Nicole Smith says she was speechless when she first heard that she would have the chance to perform at Carnegie Hall.

Smith is one of about 75 Adrian College choir and Lenawee Community Chorus members who will perform Monday at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The groups will be accompanied by the New England Symphonic Ensemble and joined by several other choirs in a performance of Faure's "Requiem."

"You don't hear of many people from around here who get to perform at Carnegie Hall," said Smith, a member of Adrian College's choir who visited New York as a senior at Tecumseh High School and is enthusiastic about returning. "I really have to say thank you to Dr. Hodgman."

Tom Hodgman is director of the Adrian College choir and conductor of the Lenawee Community Chorus. Though he will not conduct the groups' 8 p.m. Monday performance, he said he will work closely with the conductor, Candace Wicke, a friend of Hodgman's.

According to Hodgman, MidAmerica Productions, a group responsible for bringing performances to Carnegie Hall, looks for talented choral organizations singing a challenging repertoire and building a reputation as an ensemble.

The process for being selected begins by word of mouth, Hodgman said. Hodgman credits directors he knew from his time in New York City with suggesting his name to MidAmerica, which researched the local groups.

"I'm thrilled that a college of our size could have this opportunity," choir member Sid Martinez said.

Martinez, a graduate of Madison High School, said he took up singing in the choir as a hobby and has been involved for two years. Now in his senior year at Adrian College, he regrets that he did not join the choir sooner.

"I didn't know of the excitement," he said.

Martinez mentioned that choir members are covering some of their own travel expenses and that some will not be able to make the trip due to the cost. To help ease the financial burden, proceeds from the students' performance of "Broadway Revue" were given to the students making the trip.

"They gave each of us \$60 spending money," said Emilie Cadmus, a sophomore at Adrian College. "That was really nice of them."

Cadmus mentioned that her mother and grandmother will make the trip to New York City, and will spend some time sight-seeing with her. Cadmus, who has never been to New York before, said she was very excited when she heard about the trip.

Irene Martinez, whose son is in the choir, said singers are very lucky to have the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall.

Stephen Wolfe and his sister, Christina, both graduates of Tecumseh High School, will be accompanied by their mother on the trip. Stephen also said that his father is making plans to attend the performance.

After returning to Adrian, the choir will give a performance at of "Requiem" at 3 p.m. April 9 at Adrian College.

"It's going to be a thrilling concert," Hodgman said.

Hodgman said the Adrian College performance will give the community, friends and family a chance to hear what the choir sings in New York. There will be about 150 choir members singing in the April 9 performance according to Hodgman, including those who could not make the trip to New York



Tom Hodgman directs the Adrian College choir and Lenawee Community Chorus during rehearsal Wednesday evening at Spencer Hall on the Adrian College campus. Members of both choruses are heading to New York to perform at Carnegie Hall.