

# THE MINING Journal

## U.P. choirs to sing at Carnegie Hall

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**by KRISTEN KOHRT**

On March 12, singers from the Upper Peninsula will grace the same stage Tchaikovsky, Gershwin and Ellington once stepped on.

The Marquette County Chamber Chorale and the Marquette Male Chorus, along with members of the St. Peter Cathedral Choir and Ishpeming High School's Hematites in Harmony, will be putting on a collaborative performance with the Bay de Noc Choral Society from Escanaba as well as other choirs from around the country at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The choirs were invited by MidAmerica Productions, which is a tour company that brings together choruses from all over the country to perform in major venues.

The choirs will be performing Gabriel Faure's "Requiem." Chamber Chorale Director Wayne Hanmer said the combined choirs will total over 200 voices and will be accompanied by a full orchestra.

Steve Edwards, a former chamber chorale director and currently the head of the choral department at Del Gato University in Louisiana, will be directing the choirs. Hanmer said Edwards wanted to work with choirs that he has worked with before.

"He knows the quality of performers we have," Hanmer said.

Unlike most of the performers, Hanmer has had the opportunity to sing in Carnegie Hall before. However, the rush of performing in one of the most famous venues in

the world doesn't fade, he said.

"There has never been a time when I have walked on that stage and it doesn't take my breath away," he said. "You know you've practiced for a good reason."

Marquette Male Chorus member Michael Reed, who has been singing in the male chorus for 10 years, said this is his first time singing in Carnegie Hall.

"As a child, you watch entertainment and performances and you know Carnegie Hall," he said. "It's like Mecca for vocal performances. How many people get to go to Mecca?"

Reed said he's also never been to New York City and looks forward to taking in a play and perhaps dining at an authentic New York deli.

Hematites in Harmony director Shelly Grazulis will be bringing some of her singers to join the chorus. Grazulis said this is a great opportunity for these young singers to perform a complicated piece of music. Because of the number and range of voices needed, their choir wouldn't be able to sing the piece on their own.

"This will be our only opportunity to sing this type of music," Grazulis said. "I think it's going to be exciting for them. They're starting to really love the music – we're ready for it."

The Hematites will take a bus to New York City and have hired a tour company to get in as much site-seeing in as

possible during the trip.

Chamber Chorale member Dorothy Kahler said she isn't the least bit nervous, knowing Edwards will be directing her and the rest of the choir.

"I believe he will help us to sing this as beautifully as possible," she said. "We're in capable hands and have been well trained by Wayne."

Kahler has been singing with the chamber chorale since 2000 and did not hesitate to take advantage of the opportunity to sing in Carnegie Hall.

"It's a big deal for us — we're from a small town — this is big," she said. "It's a good musical experience in an historic place."



Members of the Marquette County Chamber Chorale, Marquette Male Chorus, Bay de Noc Choral Society and St. Peter Cathedral Choir rehearse Gabriel Faure's "Requiem" at St. Louis the King Catholic Church on Sunday. The choirs, along with singers from Ishpeming High School's Hematites in Harmony and other choirs from around the U.S., will be performing the piece in Carnegie Hall on March 12.