

Robyn Lockett

Arts & Entertainment

Chamber Singers

While there are several choral groups in campus, the Chamber Singers are the most competitive thus far. The Chamber Singers, a student audition based group, put on their annual fall concert Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Light Recital Hall.

“These are the best singers on campus. Some are voice majors; some are in business, education and theater, so they are pretty diverse,” Robert Gehrenbeck, Director of Choral Activities, said. “They all have experience of singing in high school. They learn very quickly and have success as soloist.”

The Chamber Singers consists of 30 members whom audition at the beginning of each new school year for the choral program. Each student that auditioned were place in their specific choir; Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, University Chorus, Women's Chorale, Class Act, and Opera Workshop.

Deborah Skidmore, a senior majoring in music and a two year veteran in the Chamber Singers said that during the first week after auditions, the staff takes the time to figure out who will be a part of which ensemble for the concert. For the rest of the semester up until the concert, each ensemble practiced in a six week rehearsal.

Each work that the Chamber Singers perform is classically pieces from composers such as Mozart and Beethoven. Occasionally there is a piece from Latin America. Most performances are done a cappella; therefore the members have to practice strenuously in order to become a tight knit unit.

“I just love music particularly I love to sing with an ensemble. Magic just happens when you get a group together,” Skidmore said.

The Chamber singers meet four times a week where they learn how to depend on each other when they are performing such as finding notes and harmonizing. Each spring the Chamber Singers go on tour. The concert proceeds from Sunday goes towards the expenses for touring such as a bus, hotel and food.

“Last year we toured in Illinois around the Chicago area. This year we plan to tour Central Wisconsin, near Milwaukee and Appleton,” Gehrenbeck said. “We visit high schools in order to recruit students to the music program along with other colleges as well.”

Kelsey Short, a sophomore and elementary education major and music minor, has been a member of the Chamber Singers for three semesters. Short hoped that people appreciated the different style of music. In the future, Short plans to teach music to kids.

Short’s favorite piece from the concert was, “Sourwood Mountain” because it is a fun folk song that livened up the show. This was a little break from the classical music the Chamber Singers are used to singing. Skidmore agrees yet she is in love with “I love My Love.”

In case you missed this wonderful performance, you still have the opportunity to see the Chamber singers perform. Today 7:30 p.m. in the Down Under, the Vocal Jazz Concert will be taking place. On Sunday, The Choir Concert will include all UW-W choirs on campus including the Men's Chorus and Gospel Choir. The last concert of the semester will be The Christmas Gala that will showcase the entire music department on Dec 6.