

Exciting Diversity

PLU had a long tradition of excellence in its choral music program. Geared toward the major and non-major alike, the program offered a wide variety of quality vocal opportunities, both through individual performance and through refined ensemble participation.

The Choir of the West, directed by Richard Sparks, achieved national and international recognition for establishing the highest standards of choral performance. In addition to concerts on campus, the choir traveled to the Spokane, Portland, and Seattle opera houses for their annual Christmas Festival Concert series. This year their Interim concert tour included stops throughout the Northwest and British Columbia, and culminated in a guest appearance at the Spokane Bach Festival. Spring highlights included a performance of the *Liebeslieder Waltzes* by Johannes Brahms and performances of J. S. Bach's B-minor Mass, honoring the anniversary of the composer's 300th birthday.

The University Chorale, directed by Edward Harmic, was recognized regionally and beyond as an outstanding collegiate choral ensemble. Each year, the group worked with the Choir of the West in presenting the Christmas Festival Concerts. The chorale toured the Northwest and California during Interim with a concert highlighted by the works of Bach, Handel, and Brahms. Spring activities included a local mini-tour and an appearance at the year-end commencement concert.

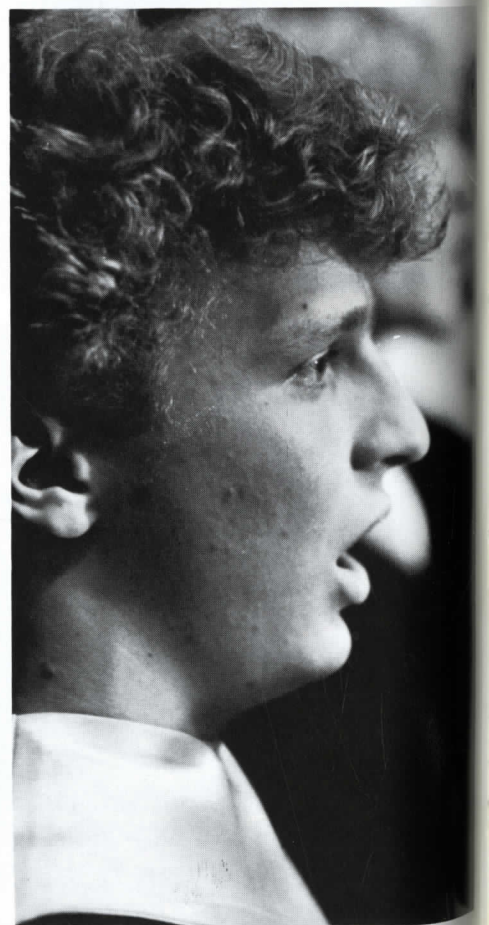
- "Let their Celestial concerts all unite."
- Chris Bassett is intent on his work.

D. Patrick Michel led the University Singers which was an active performing ensemble specializing in sacred and secular music for women's voices. The ensemble presented a special Service of Lessons and Carols during the Christmas season and a spring concert full of inspiring selections from all eras of music.

Under the direction of David Dahl, the Chapel Choir performed regularly for University Chapel worship. The group provided its members with repertoire experience with appropriate literature for ongoing church music programs. The ensemble, comprised of majors and non-majors, enriched the worship life on campus through their weekly chapel performance.

New to the choral ensembles this year was the Choral Union, founded and directed by Richard Sparks. This ensemble indeed represented a special union between campus vocalists and community members, and specialized in the presentation of larger choral works. The 1984-1985 season included performances of Mozart's *Requiem* and Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. The new ensemble exemplified the PLU tradition of rich diversity and excellence in choral music to the enjoyment and continuing education of all members of the PLU community.

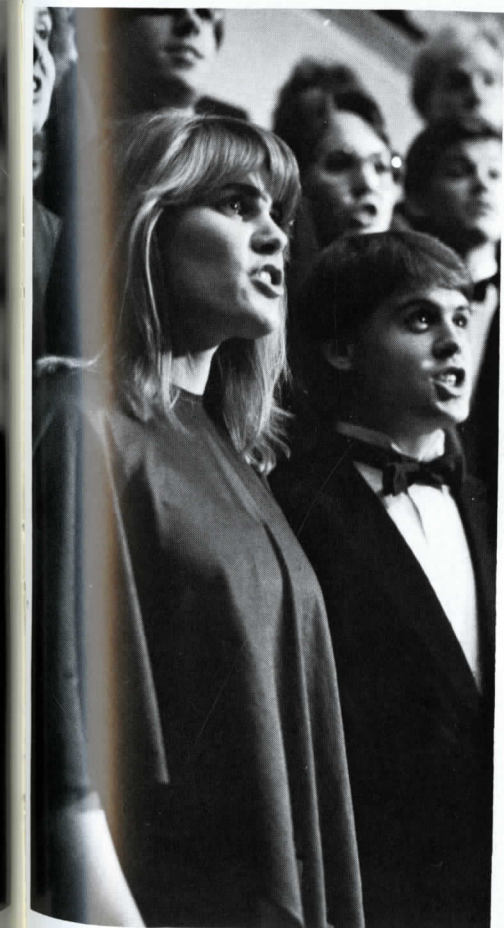
Philip Tschopp





◀ Dick "Sparks" some enthusiasm at one of the Choir of the West's rehearsals.

▼ University Chorale prepares for their Interim west-coast tour--"No more we said, but on our way we ganged along together."



▲ Ed Harmic grins from ear to ear when he thinks of his talented choir.

◀ Lisa Sigurdson and Matt Orme, together once again, sing their hearts out.