

Vocal Music

Harmonizing As One



Photo Services

Choir of the West: Kathleen Cogswell, Duane Whittman, Tanya Lutz, Howard Hilde, Lisa Anderson, Chad Haase, Lisa Knowles, Amy Johnson, Robert Vogelsang, Clarice Huesby, Debbie Lamburn, Conlin Roser, Alison Whitney, Mickey Laux, Nancy Duck, Paul Snider, Kathy Meacham, Greg Vancil (director), June Lee, David Weiss, Pam Turner, Chelle Killian, Bruce DeChambeau, Ellen Hegseth, Gordon Porth, Lisa Grass, Brian Huget, Rebekah Wu, Jeff Roberts, Eric Strom, Christine Emerson, Christine Giles, Alan West, Julie DeKruyf, Julie Didier, Joel Schreuder, Cindy Bourquin, Steinar Ryen, Kathy Jeffrey, Anna Schwidder, Keith Swanson.

The Choir of the West has enjoyed many fine moments throughout its history. However, the choir had one of its finest as they toured England during the summer of 1988. The group enchanted audiences in cathedrals from Canterbury to London and, along the way, learned a little bit about English culture. But to think that the choir slacked off during the rest of the year is wrong.

With conductor Richard Sparks off on sabbatical, Gregory Vancil stepped in as conductor. Vancil brought in new perspectives to challenge the choir, and challenge he did. Many of the members this year had been in Choir of the West for two or more years, and this gave Vancil the flexibility to

jump right into material for the choir's Northwest tour in January.

Along the way to the tour, the choir participated in a reformation service, civic activities, and the annual Christmas concerts with the University Chorale, singers, and orchestra.

After Christmas break, the choir rehearsed five hours a day for their tour of the Northwest. The 10-day tour covered Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon. The concerts were centered around the Centennial celebrations of Washington and Montana with the theme, "Tribute to the '89's." The music in the middle part of the concert was dated from 1589 all the way through 1989. The 1989

premiere, "Alleluja Jubilate," was written especially for the Choir of the West's Northwest tour by Gerald Kechley, a professor of music at the University of Washington. The concerts were well received by audiences throughout the tour.

The rest of the choir's Spring semester was comprised of working on "Elijah" which was performed with the University Chorale and Choral Union.

Through it all, visiting conductor Gregory Vancil deserves the credit for coming in and doing some exciting and spectacular things with this year's Choir of the West.

Chad Haase