

Singing for a Century

Pacific Lutheran University has always had a strong tradition for the love of music. With the development of the Choir of the West in 1927, PLU was able to let its voices be heard.

The Choir of the West was quoted as being, "PLC's (Pacific Lutheran College) famed a capella choir. The choir's songs have richness, vigor and sweetness, that typifies the spirit of the pioneer Washington."

J.O. Edwards was the first director of this 33 member choir. From 1937-63, the Choir of the West was directed by Gunnar Malmin.

The Choir of the West emphasized the beauty and Christian tradition of the Christmas festivals. They voiced a rich treasure of Christmas music from many lands in its concerts. Each Yuletide, the choir joined with other musical organizations

on campus to present a Christmas pageant of songs.

Favorites of audiences through the years have included "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "Silent Night."

Even before the choir was established, students were aching to sing, play and participate in concerts. For example, one of the first concerts was held in the College Auditorium on Feb. 21-22, 1914. T.M. Drotning directed the musical union, accompanied by Miss Myrtle Olson, and Lewis G. Hunter and Joseph O. Edwards directed the band.

PLU has always accentuated the tradition of Lutheran Christmas festivals and allowed voices through time to be heard. If we listen closely in Eastvold Auditorium, we may hear echoes of voices long ago.

Kristin Ford



Up in front. In Eastvold and with equal excellence, Mickey Laux sang the solo part of Joseph in the "Den Heliga Natten" oratio. All five performances received praise from the audiences. (Jerry Debner)

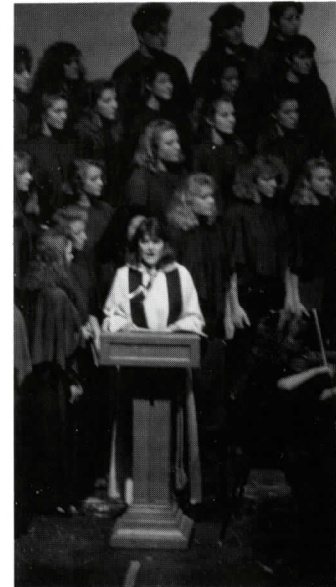
DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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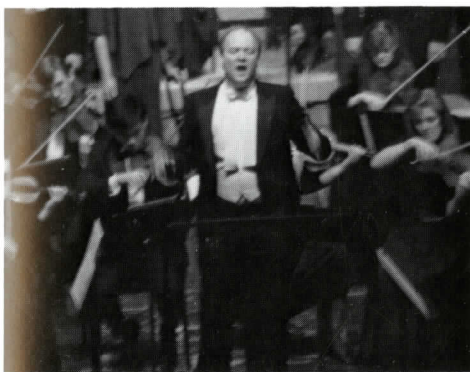




Directing it all. Cathy Bleecker-McClure conducts the disciplined and harmonious Choir of the West, Chorale and University Symphony Orchestra on Dec. 16, 1990 in Eastvold Auditorium. The oratio, "Den Heliga Natten," was a combination of all three music programs with the narration of Susan Briebl. (Jerry Debner)



In the spotlight. Susan Briebl sincerely narrates for the "Den Heligan Natten" piece; an oration about the birth of Jesus Christ. As she speaks, the University Symphony Orchestra plays a melodic accompaniment. (Jerry Debner)



Alive and engrossed. Richard Sparks vigorously conducts the Christmas Festival Celebration music to excellence. The music groups had performed in Portland and Seattle, as well as in Tacoma. (Jerry Debner)



The helping hands. On Nov. 15, 1990, Food Service celebrated "A Century of Food Services, Then and Now," in the U.C. commons. Preparedness through 100 years was displayed by Pam Martin's historical newspaper-photo presentation. (Jerry Debner)