



NEWS RELEASE

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“Bon voyage” concert planned by USI’s Mid-America Singers

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The University family and the public are invited to wish “Bon voyage” to the University of Southern Indiana Mid-America Singers when they present a farewell concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 28, at St. Boniface Catholic Church, their last public performance prior to departure for their first European Concert Tour.

The Singers, directed by Daniel Craig, USI music director, will wear the costumes and sing the songs they will feature on their tour. The 28 Singers will leave March 2, accompanied by Craig; Larry Goss, USI professor of engineering technology who joined Craig on an earlier trip to Poland; and Gloria Cardoni of Evansville, their staff accompanist.

The tour was arranged after Craig and Goss went to Poland last summer to sing with the Cantores Malborienses at a Swedish festival. Craig said, “I was so impressed with the music I heard last summer. The Polish people in the major cities have much western influence -- Ford cars, McDonald’s hamburgers, etc., but the Polish people I talked to had a concern that the Polish culture may not survive. Part of this program is to learn and to share the music.”

But Craig hopes it also will be an important learning experience for the USI students. Their tour is being planned for that benefit. In the itinerary currently planned -- it keeps changing -- the group will leave Chicago March 3 and land in Warsaw, then take a six-hour bus ride to Malbork. The Singers will stay in a hostel and will be honored guests at an evening reception there.

On their first full day (March 4) in Poland, they will visit Frombork and the monastery where Nicholai Copernicus studied the stars. They return to Malbork that afternoon to rehearse with the Cantores Malborienses, which is a girls’ choir at the Liceum (high school) conducted by Wawrzyniec Zambowski, one of their hosts for the tour. On Sunday, March 5, they will sing during mass at Zambowski’s church, then accompany host families for lunch.

The Singers leave that afternoon for Pelplin, where they will tour the Pelplin Cathedral and possibly sing for mass or present an impromptu concert. They may also visit a museum where the Gutenberg Bible is on display.

They return to Malbork that evening and on March 6, will present a morning concert at the Liceum; they also will visit classrooms and exchange questions and answers with the Polish students.

(more)

They leave that afternoon for Gdansk, to present a concert. March 7 brings a train ride to Oliwa, where they will be treated to an organ concert and may present their own impromptu concert. They return to Gdansk to spend the afternoon in Old Town; that evening will feature English night at a local pub and another impromptu concert.

Most of Wednesday, March 8, will be open and may include beachcombing on the Hel Peninsula of the Baltic Sea. They will present a concert that evening in the Old Town Hall. They are off to Westerplatte Fortress -- one of the places where World War II began -- on Thursday, March 9, and also will visit Stuttof Concentration Camp. They return to Malbork that afternoon to prepare for an evening concert in the Castle of the Teutonic Knights, the largest fortified castle in the world. On Friday, March 10, a castle tour will be available before they head for Elblag and another evening concert. They return to Malbork after the concert to prepare for their return to the United States the next day.

That is the tour as planned now, primarily by their Polish hosts, but Craig warns the students to be flexible. "Europeans," he explained, "are not accustomed to being nailed down to a strict schedule. We will check in as a group several times to check the (current) schedule."

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Mid-America Singers making the Polish concert tour:

INDIANA --

Evansville -

Chris D. Alldredge

Ronald Ray Baker

Sarah E. Beard

Erin R. Diecken

Amy J. Grayson

Michele A. Rodriguez

Eric W. Rudisill

Margaret L. Rudisill

Shane E. Rumsey

Tricia Stocks

Lisa M. Umbach

Julie Rae Williams

Hatfield -

Eric W. Rudisill

Indianapolis -

Kimberly Jo Alvey

Lisa L. Fikes

Linton -

Heather D. Gilmore

Loogootee -

Kristina D. Harder

Mt. Vernon -

Shannon L. Christmas

Anthony R. Cron

Newburgh -

Jennifer E. Earles

Ralph W. Goodwin II

Oakland City -

Barry Larson Parker

Patoka -

Shannon F. Sturgeon

Princeton -

Alfa Dawnette Holder

Kim R. Wardel

Wadesville -

Gregory L. Bryant

ALASKA

Juneau -

Ross W. DeBolt

KENTUCKY

Morganfield -

Margaret A. Lyon

PENNSYLVANIA

Apollo -

Richard J. Kaczor