

Chamber choir will offer evening of beautiful respite

*"Without a song, the day would never end
Without a song, the road would never bend. ...
A man is born, but he's no good no-how
Without a song."*

Vincent Youmans wrote the music in 1929, and Billy Rose and Edward Eliscu penned the poignant words. Those familiar lyrics have been sung by Perry Como, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett, and in many styles from opera to gospel, until it has become part of America's cultural fabric.

What is it about the sound of music that turns a no-good man into someone special, ends the day and bends the road? Albert Einstein might have said it is simple physics. Everything is made up of vibrations, and songs are simply vibrations you can hear, feel and sometimes see.

Sound has structure that can alter the vibrational structure of things around it — such as people's emotional states. It can create patterns in water, as demonstrated by the experiments of Hans Jenny in creating a new sci-



Courtesy of College of Saint Benedict at St. John's University

The touring Chamber Choir of the College of Saint Benedict at St. John's University will perform at 7 p.m. Monday at the Holy Trinity Church.

ence of sound called Cymatics. Sound's structure and patterns were recognized by the great German literary and scientific genius Johann Wolfgang von Goethe when he wrote: "I call architecture frozen music."

According to the Puebloan people of Arizona and New Mexico, it was the energy of song that Creator used to bring the world into being. And of course the Bible quotes "The Word" as doing the same thing for Christians and Jews.

But most importantly for us here today, sound — wearing the silken garments of music and song — has the ability to tease our brains into affecting our moods and emotions.

One of the beneficial physical effects of choral singing is the shared feeling of happiness caused by music's release of endorphins in the brains of people singing together — and to the listeners as well. Singing is also good aerobic exercise, oxygenates the blood and releases anxiety.

Likewise, it can boost memory and, by synchronizing the right and left brain, maximize learning and the retention of information.

The 60-beat per minute of Baroque music common in the music of Mozart and others of that era is particularly useful in assisting learning. Play Mozart while studying, and watch your grades go up!

Some little known facts of history are that famous people used music to overcome creative blockages. Einstein, who did poorly in school, started excelling when his parents gave him a violin. He even figured out his problems and equations by improvising on the violin.

King George I of England had trouble with memory and stress. He read in the Bible that Saul overcame similar difficulties by using special music, so he asked George Fredrick Handel to write a distinctive piece to help him. That piece is now enjoyed by the entire world as the "Water Music Suite."

Even Thomas Jefferson, when he needed to think up the right words in 1776 took out his violin and played until inspiration manifested through the music's effects.

With all this in mind, be prepared for a special choral treat in a free concert at 7 p.m. on Monday, at Holy Trinity Church, 135 Church St. in Trinidad. The touring Chamber Choir of the College

of Saint Benedict at St. John's University in St. Joseph, Minn., will present a concert of outstanding sacred and secular music. For additional information, contact Louise at 719-846-3369, ext. 28.

This chamber choir was formed in 1970, at the time that its director, Dr. Axel Theimer, joined the faculty of St. John's University. Theimer is a native of Austria, where he was a member of the Vienna Boys Choir. In addition to his activities as teacher at St. John's, he is founder and music director of Kantori, a well known Minneapolis/St. Paul choral ensemble, of Amadeus Chamber Symphony, and is music director of the National Catholic Youth Choir. In 2001 the Minnesota American Choral Directors Association awarded Theimer Choir director of the Year.

The Chamber Choir's yearly tours have taken them all over the United States, and we are greatly honored to receive this group of 49 young men and women in Trinidad to delight our citizens and inspire our aspiring choristers.

The sound of their music will lift our spirits to a place of peace above the stresses of everyday life, offering us an evening of beautiful respite.

Submitted by Cynthia Berresse Ploskinatan@hughes.net

Raton audience gets tips on bringing film makers to town

By Tim Keller

Special to The Chronicle-News
RATON — Three representatives of the New Mexico Film Office joined Raton's official film liaison on the Shuler Theater stage Wednesday evening for a presentation on how local communities can benefit by attracting film productions to the area.

Raton film liaison Sara Kowalski introduced the film office's director, Nick Maniatis, Workforce Development programs manager Rochelle Bussey, and locations coordinator Don Gray to audience members who came from every direction within a 50-mile radius for the event.

Maniatis reported that, despite recent state cut-backs in film incentives, New Mexico is still in the top eight states for financial incentives to attract film and TV productions. The state has long been popular with filmmakers for its variety of towns and landscapes. "We are almost full this spring; all our crews will be tapped out with films coming here," Maniatis said. Productions

include "The Lone Ranger," starring Johnny Depp as Tonto, and the final seasons of TV hits "Breaking Bad" and "In Plain Sight."

"Between LA and New York, New Mexico has the best crews and the best facilities for filmmaking in the United States," Maniatis continued. Movies and TV productions show off the state, acting as advertising while also bringing in great income from the productions themselves. He said a new thrust is "film tourism," where the New Mexico Tourism Department will be publicizing popular film sites so travelers can visit them. The list is long: New Mexico has been a popular location among filmmakers for almost a century.

Gray encouraged those in the audience to list their properties, with photos, on the film office's website, www.nmfilm.com.

"The right location can land an entire film," he said. "In fact, I've seen a production decide on a location by a single photograph." Although the New Mexico film site has 60,000

photos available to filmmakers in its online archive, Gray said it always needs more.

He suggested typing any location, such as Raton, into the database to see how the area is currently represented to filmmakers. Then send new photos of homes, businesses, ranches, and other locations.

Kowalski shared tales of showing filmmakers around Raton on scouting expeditions. One phone call told her she had 20 minutes to get to Crews Field to pick up Kevin Costner when his helicopter landed. She showed him all around town. "He loved First Street, hated Second Street," she said. "He looked at some neighborhoods and some churches." The film he was scouting for has not yet been made, nor its eventual location determined, although it would appear that Raton remains in the running. "He loved Raton," Kowalski said.

When the Coen Brothers remade "True Grit" two years ago, their location scouts came to Raton.



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Location scout Don Gray told a rapt audience how a community lands a film production.

"They loved it here," Kowalski shared, "but for their movie they said it was too green!"

After the presentation, the film office representatives took questions from the audience. Some wanted to know how to break into work in the movies.

Maniatis suggested a lot of hustle — "Use the website, make lots of contacts, make yourself available, network with people. Be persistent."

Gray added, "Filmmaking is the ultimate meritocracy. If you're good, and you work hard, they won't let you out." He

landed his first job in the film industry when Ron Howard was filming "The Missing" outside Santa Fe in 2003. "At that time, I was the only photographer in Santa Fe with a digital camera, and that's what they needed. I've been working with films ever since."

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Bella Luna gives \$400 to shelter

The Chronicle-News
The Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association was given a \$400 check from Bella Luna Pizza.

The pizzeria raised the money for the animal shelter at an event Friday.

"Community support like this gives us the ability to help more animals," said Cory Davis, interim director of the shelter. "As a non-profit, we rely on the support of people who care."

The event included a performance by the band Level 5.

"We decided to donate the proceeds from this event to the shelter because we know they're doing good work for our community and the animals," said Jeff Quinn, owner of Bella Luna.

The shelter will use the funds for air handling equipment to assure the health of cats in its newly renovated cat room.

The shelter is open for adoptions from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays.