Donald Carey: A UM image maker

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MISSOULA--

Donald Carey, associate professor of music at the University of Montana, is justifiably proud of the UM Chamber Chorale he directs. The 29-member group recently returned from a three-month trip to Vienna, Austria.

The students, who received 18 credits for classes attended and performances given while abroad, were taught by a nine-member faculty composed of teachers from UM's music department and foreign languages department, the Vienna Conservatory of Music and the Hochschule for Musik. The primary voice teacher was Otto Edelmann, who retired following a 41-year opera career, in which he sang all over the world. Edelmann praised the UM students when he said, "In all of my singing classes I do not have any voices that can compare with these."

Part of the learning included attending musical concerts and recitals almost nightly and hearing some of the world's greatest artists.

"The musical growth was incredibly good both for the individual and for the choir as an organization but I am more impressed with the fact that the academic part of it was so successful. Students really did take the 18 hours (over)
of credit. We had 20 performances in Vienna and the quality of performance was exceptional in choral music. They knew they were under pressure from the sophisticated Viennese audiences, but concentrated and were able to bring off performances of the highest musical quality. This was recognized by the audiences, respected musicians, and guest conductors," said Carey.

F. Lessky, director of the Wiener Musik Gymnasium, said, "This was the first American choir to sing Schubert as it must be sung. They are an outstanding choir with a mature sound."

A faculty member from the Vienna Conservatory commented that the "UM Chamber Chorale was the finest choir to sing in Vienna in the last eight years. They performed an excellent realization of Bruckner. These singers know when to stop singing each note."

According to Carey, who has been at UM for 13 years, what impressed him most was to see the Montana students, many of whom are from very small communities, become world citizens in a different culture.

"They were making friends and communicating in a foreign language. The chorale members were able to take part in a society and culture that is radically different from what they are used to. Their success in this type of development will, in my opinion, in the long run be the most valuable portion of the whole endeavor. It was rewarding to see UM students have this kind of success. I feel the vocal music tradition established at UM during the past 40 years can compete successfully with virtually anything like it in the world," Carey emphasized.

The idea of spring quarter in Vienna originated in Carey's mind in May 1978 while riding with the chorale in a bus somewhere between Lewistown and Belt. A lead time of two years was decided upon in order to allow the students (more)
enough time to learn a foreign language, study European history and accumulate the funds necessary for such a trip. A schedule of courses was developed which allowed each student to pursue his or her own curriculum. In cooperation with the UM Department of Foreign Languages, courses in German and Austrian culture and drama were offered.

Members of the chorale, which normally numbers between 20 and 24, receive one hour of credit per quarter. "But they put in five million hours of work," Carey laughed.

Comprised of music majors as well as non-music majors with representatives from most of the schools and departments at UM, the chorale appeared at 53 performances in 1979 and only two of these were in Missoula. "So we are doing lots of traveling; it also means we are probably better known in other areas of the state and Northwest region than we are locally," Carey added.

Discussing another favorite topic of his, Carey said, "I think that outreach or bringing the real image of UM to all parts of Montana and the Northwest is UM's single most critical need right now. In that regard, I think that President Richard C. Bowers has done a miraculous job of projecting the quality of this institution both in- and out-of-state. He really brought this message to the members of the legislature at critical times during the last legislative session. President Bowers has addressed himself to that need in the most beneficial way."

UM students, such as those in the chorale, have augmented these efforts in ways that have been very helpful to the campus image.

Equally important, Carey feels, is the re-enlisting of UM's alumni support into this effort. He said that Alumni Director Deanna Sheriff and her
"CAREY" -- add three

staff have made great strides in raising the consciousness of alumni regarding
their responsibility to the University.

"Alumni support and involvement are probably more critical now than at
any other time in the school's history. The Chamber Chorale is trying to
deliver 'UM's message' to wherever there are alumni to listen," Carey said.

He added that "it is also part of our mission to bring the greatest music
to all Montanans. We are not merely entertainers even though we do have a good
amount of toe-tapping music in our portfolio. Next month we will sing Haydn
in Judith Gap and Schubert in Vancouver, B.C. These are our real reasons for
being."

"The chorale was fortunate to be in Vienna and associate with musical
minds firsthand. Now we feel an even stronger motivation to provide the
opportunity for Montana citizens to have the same kind of association," he
emphasized.

Responsible for UM's choral program, Carey conducts the University Choir
and the Chamber Chorale and teaches conducting and music education courses.
He also conducts the Missoula Mendelssohn Club which, incidentally, is in the
process of soliciting funds to establish UM scholarships as a living tribute
to Lloyd and Helen Oakland. Oakland is a former director of the Mendelssohn
Club and a former member of UM's music faculty.

A native of Coffeyville, Kan., Carey is a former member of the Robert
Shaw Chorale and toured with that group. He also studied conducting at the
Wiesbaden Opera in Germany. A graduate of the University of Kansas at
Lawrence, he did graduate work at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Carey's hobbies include fly fishing and hunting. He and his wife, Anne,
who has a voice studio, have two children.

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