



Black Mountain Youth Chorale's Spring Program Announced

By Aline Carillon and Rita Vermillion

On Sunday, April 5 at 3 pm, the Black Mountain Youth Chorale will present their spring concert at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts, located in the old City Hall at 225 W. State Street. The Black Mountain Youth Chorale is comprised of 4th-8th graders from the Swannanoa Valley in eastern Buncombe County.

The thematic title (and title song by John Carter) of the program is "See the World through Children's Eyes." As such, the music celebrates children: their perceptions, their feelings, their beliefs and all that makes youth young at heart. The program is broken into 3 major sections: Children Speak: Lyrics and music written by children; Children in Musical Theater; and Sounds of Childhood. Of special note, the program includes the song "We Will." Composed in a songwriting workshop in October of 2001 by Jim Papoulis and a multicultural children's choir, it contains a message from those who wanted to respond with music to the growing sense of violence and despair in our country and in the world. In forming the lyrics, the children wanted to include a nonsensical phrase that would deflect the barrage of words in the news that confused them. The sounds they formed sounded very much like the Swahili phrase "*Si mama, wototo,*" which translates as "Stand tall, children." This lyric theme, together with melody and rhythm influenced by the jazz genre combine to offer a message of hope to children and the world.



Other titles in the program include "Fire," a Poem by Patricia Taylor (age 13); "Consider Yourself" (from "Oliver"), "Castle on a Cloud" (from "Les Miserables"), "For Good" (from "Wicked"), "Friendship Song" (Czech Canon), "A Girl's Garden" (from "Frostiana"), "Joy Inside," and "Laughing Song." In several of these numbers, the Youth Chorale will accompany itself with melodic and rhythmic instruments. Vocal soloists are Anna Hall and Sierra Pierce. The Chorale is under the direction of Aline Carillon, with piano accompaniment by Penny Rose.

The Chorale, which was started with a Grassroots Grant from the Asheville Arts Council through the NC Arts Council, has performed with the Asheville Choral Society, and with the Hilton Head Choral Society Youth Choir. They perform a fall and spring concert each year.

The goal for students in the Chorale is not only to learn more about music and group singing in a variety of genres, but to make friends with others their own age who are also interested in music. The Black Mountain Youth Chorale is made up of students in public, charter, private, and home schools. The opportunity to meet each other and sing together is available in a way that may not be offered through any other venue.

For more information, call the Black Mountain Center for the Arts at 828/669-0930. For the concert a donation at the door of \$5 per person or \$15 per family is suggested.

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