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Raising their voices

Glendale College Concert Singers lift spirits with choral music.

By Ani Amirkhanian

Singers and listeners alike gained a measurable amount of enjoyment from the spring concert of the Glendale College Concert Singers on Sunday at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Glendale.

Made up of both community members and Glendale Community College students, the 50-member group performed the choral music of contemporary American composer Morten Lauridsen and classical composers Gregorio Allegri and Johann Pachelbel.

Glendale resident Cindy Baker, an eight-year member of the Concert Singers, brought her mother, Sylva, who came from Philadelphia to hear her daughter sing.

"This is a chance to hear wonderful music and see my daughter," Sylva Baker said, adding that she visits



Director Peter Green conducts the Glendale College Concert Singers on Sunday at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

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Glendale twice a year for the concert.

The Glendale College Concert Singers Orchestra accompanied the performers under the direction of choral director Peter Green.

"The program appeals to all emotions," Green said.

"And the acoustics are great here."

As the Concert Singers

made last-minute preparations for the concert, they reflected on their experiences with the group.

First-semester music student Phaedra Kossow-Quinn, of Glendale, decided to join the Concert Singers so she could continue singing choral music.

Kossow-Quinn has been singing since high school, she said.

"I just miss the technicality of singing," Kossow-Quinn said. "It's much more difficult singing with a group than by yourself."

Unlike Kossow-Quinn, who is new to the circle of choral singers, Burbank residents Jan Hanson and Jim Farrell have been with the group for nearly 20 years.

Hanson, an alto, started performing with the Concert Singers 18 years ago. She teaches choral music to elementary school students in Eagle Rock.

"I can't live without it," Hanson said. "I love classical music and I don't want it to be lost. I'm raising a generation who will know about classical music."

Farrell, a 19-year member, is also a veteran of the Concert Singers.

"After a concert, I am about 10 feet off the ground for two weeks," he said. "It's very fulfilling."

On Sunday, attendees listened to music and stayed to show their appreciation for the singers.

Alhambra resident Guadalupe Chavez came to support her brother, Moises Chavez, a first-year music student at Glendale College.

"The music is soothing and it calms your spirit," Guadalupe Chavez said.

"It's very loving and just everybody can listen to it and feel tranquillity."

Jan Ostegard, of Burbank, was impressed by the overall quality of the performance.

"It's almost like they're singing like angels," Ostegard said. "They get better every year."

For more information on the Glendale College Concert Singers events, call (818) 240-1000, ext. 5622 or e-mail pgreenglendale.edu.

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