

Concert Preview

Celebration to showcase traditional black music

BY BARB CHURCHILL
Assignment Reporter

After 28 years of performing, many music groups would be history.

But the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers aren't one of those groups. Instead, they will be in Lincoln this week to help celebrate history - Black History Month, that is.

The Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers will perform Thursday at First-Plymouth Congregational Church, 20th and D streets. The Jubilee Singers will both entertain and educate with their unique blend of Negro spirituals, gospel, folk songs, calypsos, Afro-Caribbean and other African vocal forms.

The Jubilee Singers have been around for 28 years, but aren't letting any moss grow under their feet. After this brief stop in Lincoln, they travel to Columbus, Ohio, Friday and Toronto Sunday. The group is made up of 114 singers, along with the dynamic presence of Albert McNeil, choral director.

This performance by the Jubilee Singers will include traditional and contemporary spirituals, contemporary black gospel music, South African music and musical tributes to George Gershwin and Harry Belafonte.

Sue Buss, executive director of Abendmusik, said her organization was looking forward to the Jubilee Singers' performance.

"Lincoln isn't as culturally diverse as other cities," Buss said, "so this concert is more important because this may be one of the few opportunities in 1998 to hear African-American music."

One important aspect of the Jubilee Singers is that they perform many selections by distinguished black composers and arrangers, Buss said. Not everyone in Lincoln has heard a Negro spiritual, nor have they realized the great extent to which African-Americans have defined and altered all forms of music in the 20th century, she said.

"This concert is more than just a concert; it's an educational experience," Buss said.

McNeil's approach to performance also enhances the music's educational value, she said.

"Albert talks directly to the audience, and he explains everything that the singers are doing," Buss said. "He takes them right through the process. He explains it as a journey through the black heritage."

Tonight will be the third time the Jubilee Singers have been featured in the Abendmusik series. Buss attributed their repeat performances to the group's talent.

"We've looked around for a choir that's as good as them, but we haven't found one yet," Buss said. "They are just phenomenal."

The Jubilee Singers have received praise from critics and audiences alike. Recent invitations to perform in Los Angeles and Hawaii have provided testimony to the group's widespread appeal.

"We are very pleased to offer them again to Lincoln, especially as a part of Black History Month," Buss said.

The performance by the Jubilee Singers will take place tonight at 7:30. Tickets are still available and may be purchased at the door. Prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors (over 60) and \$10 for students.

Parliament wants Winnie home
British requesting return of Pooh, Piglet and gang

NEW YORK (AP) - Oh bother. The British want Winnie the Pooh and his four friends to come home.

A member of Parliament says the original stuffed animals on which A.A. Milne's beloved stories are based should be taken from a display case at the New York Public Library and returned to England.

"I saw them recently and they look very unhappy indeed," Labor Minister Gwyneth Dunwoody said. "I am not surprised, considering they have been incarcerated in a glass case in a foreign country for all these years."

Pooh, Tigger, Kanga, Eeyore and Piglet - lovingly tattered and faded - could be in for another adventure, and this one wouldn't be in the Hundred-Acre Wood. "Oh bother," Pooh might say of this tempest in a honey pot. "Oh dear, oh dear," Piglet would add.

Mrs. Dunwoody is asking what plans Britain's culture secretary has to arrange for the stuffed animals' repatriation after half a century.

"Just like the Greeks want their Elgin Marbles back - so we want our Winnie the Pooh back, along with all his splendid friends," Mrs. Dunwoody said.

The New York Public Library is treating the sticky issue very cautiously. "Until we get a specific request, we're not commenting," spokeswoman Caroline Oyama said.

But a more combative Diane Powers, associate chief librarian at the Donnell Library Center, the

branch where the stuffed toys are on display, said Wednesday: "If England returns the Elgin Marbles to Greece, we might consider returning Pooh."

Mrs. Dunwoody's comments - a day before Prime Minister Tony Blair's visit to Washington on Wednesday - posed no threat to relations between the two countries. The British Consulate in New York called The Associated Press to insist the prime minister's office knew nothing about Mrs. Dunwoody's proposal.

The Winnie the Pooh Five, along with early editions of their books, have resided in a large display case in the Children's Room of the Donnell Library Center since 1987.

Their sojourn to the United States began in 1947 when American publisher E.P. Dutton and Co. invited them for a national tour to promote Milne's books, said Tim Moses, publicity director at Dutton Children's Books, an imprint of Penguin, Putnam Inc.

Insured for \$50,000, Pooh and friends toured the United States for about 10 years, Moses said. The publisher then held onto the animals, turning them over to the library in 1987.

Moses said Milne had given the toys to Dutton permanently as a gift.

"There isn't any question about the legal ownership of Winnie and his friends," Moses said.

The hugely successful books center on the adventures of Pooh, the honey-loving bear of little

brain, and his friends: the gloomy donkey Eeyore, the excitable Piglet, bouncy Tigger and maternal Kanga (with her baby, Roo). Milne began the series in 1926 for his son, Christopher Robin, who figures prominently in the stories.

The stuffed animals, which Milne bought for his son at

Harrods, were the basis for the books' original line drawings, by Ernest Howard Shepard.

"They are part of our heritage and they want to come home," Mrs. Dunwoody said. "And it is about time we got them back. This is where they belong. They plainly want to come home."



MATT HANEY/DN

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY FAIR

Engineering & Technology Career Fair '98

Over 75 companies from Nebraska and across the nation!

Thursday, February 5, 1998
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Wick Alumni Center AND
Centennial Room, City Campus Union

In addition to talking with Engineering & Technology students and alumni, companies have indicated an interest in students and alumni from Computer Science, Mathematics, and science areas such as Chemistry, Biology, & Physics.

Civil Engineering Data Processing (Analysis/Programming)

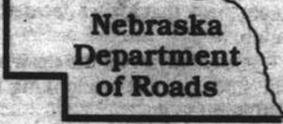
Employment Opportunities

Representatives from the Nebraska Department of Roads invite you to stop by our table at the **Engineering and Technology Fair** on February 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We are the state agency responsible for the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and administration of Nebraska's highway system. We employ more than 2,200 people across the state.

Our entry level positions offer excellent benefits and possible relocation assistance. We also provide student work-study programs. Entry level positions include:

- Data Processing (Business & Engineering Applications)
- Engineering



Stop by the Department of Roads booth for information!



Students all over the country are discovering the rewarding career opportunities at Hormel Foods - a Fortune 500 corporation. They are finding that the promote-from-within philosophy rewards employees for significant contributions.

COME MEET US!

Visit with John Huntley and Brad Blum

WHAT: Engineering & Tech Career Fair
DATE: February 5, 1998
TIME: 9:30 A.M. to 3 P.M.
PLACE: City Campus Union - Centennial Room

We have entry-level vacancies for:

- Maintenance Engineers
- Industrial Engineers
- Quality & Process Control Engineers

Accountants, Computer Analysts, Production Supervisors, and Sales Representatives

CONSIDER HORMEL. WE'LL HELP YOU SUCCEED.