

S i n g S i n g

UNL students sing at Carnegie

The long hours spent on busses and planes and an inconvenience in an elevator were small prices to pay for the University Singers Choir for a chance to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The choir's trip to New York City was one of its most important performances to date in its members' signing careers.

Choir members spent Jan. 11-15 in New York. They performed at the Carnegie on Jan. 14.

"Just being there, given the chance to sing is an honor and awesome experience," said Kara Sunderman, a junior broadcasting major.

Levels of accomplishment vary between University Singers students.

Until the Carnegie Hall trip, many singers counted their biggest performance as a statewide tour last year. One, Deanna Meyler, sang at the Vatican.

Among all the times they've performed together, most singers said the Carnegie trip offered them the best opportunity for bonding.

Backstage, singers beamed with excitement about their soon-to-be Carnegie debut.

"When you're prepared, you're more excited than nervous - and we knew we were ready," said Kari Touchatt, a music graduate student.

The half-hour performance included Rachmaninoff's, "Praise the Name of the Lord," and "Domine 'Laba Me Aperia," by Orlando di Lasso.

Students and audience members described the performance as "fabulous" and "so enjoyable."

Choir members attributed their success at Carnegie Hall to



Nate Wagner/DN

Choral Director Peter Eklund leads the University singers rehearsal at Carnegie Hall prior to their performance the night of Sunday, Jan. 14th.

the hard work they put in during the semester.

The choir prepared an entire semester and spent eight hours rehearsing in New York City with Hoffstra University and the New York Chamber Orchestra before the performance.

Director of Choral Affairs Peter Eklund described the performance as "awesome" and "very rewarding."

"The professional orchestra was incredibly complimentary," he said.

After performing, the University Singers enjoyed being audience members in Carnegie Hall - clapping and laughing in amazement at the Marble Community Gospel Choir's performance.

When they arrived in New York, choir members knew two things: Sunday night was their night to sing, but before that, they had three full days to explore New York City.

Students found colorful ways to spend their money and time, including seeing an array of

Broadway musicals, taking in a broadcasting of the "Daily Show" with Jon Stewart or a taping of the "Late Show," with David Letterman.

They visited the historic Ellis Island and Empire State Building, walked around China Town, Greenwich Village, 5th Avenue and Central Park. Not to mention the few who waited by the stage to get Miss Saigon's autograph.

The entire weekend didn't go off without a hitch, though: Four choir members got stuck in a hotel elevator for about 15 minutes. Fortunately, they were rescued - the elevator started working again - before their date at Carnegie.

But despite that setback, singers, parents, chaperons and reporter alike arrived in New York City ready to "Do New York" and share in the singers' joy as they performed on the Carnegie stage.

But after a few days surrounded by skyscrapers, cement and frantic traffic, Allison Swope was looking forward to being around "green trees and stuff" again back in Lincoln.

