

Carroll groups come together to sing 'With One Voice'

By Stephen Snyder, Times Staff Writer Carroll County Times, Friday, October 29, 2004

CHRIS AMMANN/STAFF PHOTO



Margie Boudreaux directs the Masterworks Chorale of Carroll County during a rehearsal at Winters Mill High School in Westminster for a benefit concert Saturday at St. John Catholic Church.

Audrey Cimino had no trouble finding groups to perform for the benefit concert.

On Saturday, an all-star line-up featuring the McDaniel College Choir, the Old Line Statesmen Barbershop Chorus, the **Children's Chorus of Carroll County**, the Masterworks Chorale of Carroll County, McDaniel Gospel Choir and organist Ted Dix will perform at St. John Catholic Church to raise money for the county's domestic violence safe house.

Cimino, a member of the advisory board for Family & Children's Services of Carroll County, which supplies counseling services for the safe house, is also part of the congregation at St. John and a member of the Masterworks Chorale.

Once the advisory board decided on the idea for a benefit concert, the performing groups quickly fell into place.

"It was easy," said Cimino. "Now we got to give them an audience."

The domestic violence safe house is a project of Human Services Programs, which runs shelters in the county, and Family & Children's Services, which provides counseling to battered women.

"For the last three years we've talked about the idea of doing this," said Connie Sgarlata, director of Family & Children's Services Carroll County Office.

The organizations applied for funding from the Maryland Department of Human Resources and are in the final stages of receiving that funding through an intergovernmental agreement.

The groups have secured a temporary house, which should be ready for clients sometime in November, said Sgarlata. The safe house will shelter victims and children for up to two months in a secure location.

Sgarlata said that volunteers have logged more than 400 hours so far preparing the house for clients. The advisory group has also looked for other ways to raise money for the house.

Family and Children's Services and Human Services Programs hope to find a permanent home for the safe house within the next few years.

Cimino thought a benefit concert would be a good way to raise money while also showing off St. John's new sanctuary.

"The new church needs to have people come and see it," Cimino said. "It's a wonderful space and the acoustics are nice. The choral groups are going to sound marvelous."

Organizers were happy to get so many of the county's largest musical groups to perform.

"Everybody's heard of all these groups separately," Sgarlata said, "but now they can see them all together."

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'With One Voice' benefit concert

Family & Children's Services and Human Services Programs of Carroll County present "With One Voice," an evening of music to benefit the Carroll County Domestic Violence Safe House, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at St. John Catholic Church at 43 Monroe St. in Westminster.

Performers include the McDaniel College Choir, the Old Line Statesmen Barbershop Chorus, the **Children's Chorus of Carroll County**, the Masterworks Chorale of Carroll County, the McDaniel Gospel Choir and organist Ted Dix.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at Westminster Union Bank (all branches), Dutterer's Florist, Optics Limited and at the door. People can also dine at Maggie's Restaurant that evening and show their tickets to have Maggie's donate 10 percent of the bill to the safe house.