

Chorus promotes music, community

By Bryan Schutt, Times Staff Writer

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Five minutes after making several bows and receiving a standing ovation from an appreciative audience, the Children's Chorus of Carroll County was still buzzing from their performance.

Smiles and hugs sealed the success of another spring concert, and giddy children were eager to hear their parents' reactions.

The chorus, which consists of groups ranging from 4-year-olds to high-schoolers, performed its 23rd Spring Celebration Concert Sunday at McDaniel College in Westminster.

Selections ranged from pop hits like "Yellow Submarine" to a rendition of Psalm 23. One piece, "How Beautiful is the Rain!," featured weather-appropriate lyrics for the day: "rain, rain, don't go away."

But Doug Angell of Westminster, whose fifth-grade son Matthew performed with the chorus, said the group does more than teach the children about music.

"The kids get involved a lot and [performances] promote the community," Angell said. "The chorus, like sports, allows kids to socialize ... more than they would playing Playstation."

Rhiannon Aliff, 18, has been part of the Children's Chorus for more than 10 years, and even though she's no longer a child, she said she still feels dedicated to the group.

"Singing is one of my personal passions," Aliff said. "But now, I have the chance to teach the younger kids to perform."



Kyle Nosal/Staff Photo

The Children's Chorus of Carroll County's Voce Viaggio group sings "The Stuttering Lovers" Sunday during the Spring Celebration Concert at McDaniel College in Westminster.

Artistic director and co-founder of the children's chorus Diane Jones said the children's performance at McDaniel was a representation of the immense talent of the group but also symbolic of all their dedication.

She said the chorus is one organization that teaches unity and togetherness, which she said she felt is important today.

"The world is becoming fractured," Jones said. "This brings people together; it gets them off the computer ... and helps children focus and gives them a sense of community.

She said her job isn't just to focus on the performance, but to help make the children better citizens.

"We're not just here to make good musicians. We're here to help individuals learn about and support the liberal arts," Jones said. "Arts and music give us a sense of who we are as Americans."

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