



MT photo by Larry Holman

FAMILY HARMONY — The Richard Swanson family, three of whom sing with the Rogue Valley Chorale, finds music a pleasant way to spend an evening together. Mrs. Swanson and Janet play piano parts as Dr. Swanson and Paul follow with trumpet and trombone. Both Dr. and Mrs. Swanson sing with the Chorale, one of six couples in the 80-

member group which will be presenting concerts Dec. 2 and 3 in Eastwood Baptist Church, Medford. They are joined in the Chorale by son, Paul, who will be back at Dartmouth College winter term. Janet is busy with the a capella choir at Medford Senior High School.

Rogue Valley Chorale slates two concerts

Rogue Valley Chorale, under direction of Lynn Sjolund, will present two identical Christmas concerts at 8 p.m., Dec. 2 and 3, in Eastwood Baptist Church. Tickets may be purchased from Chorale members or at the door, \$1 for students and \$2 for adults.

The Chorale draws upon the talents of people throughout the Rogue Valley. Participating in the 80-member singing group are six husband-and-wife musicians: Dave and Anne Franklin, Ron and Debbie McUne, John and Carolyn Leavens, Steve and Cindy Simmons, Bill and Jackie Matthews, and Dick and Marge Swanson, who were joined this year by their son, Paul. There also is a mother-daughter combination Jean Dyrud and Connie Toland.

The chorale interpretation of Respighi's "Laude to the Nativity" will be augmented by an instrumental ensemble with duo accompanists, Greg Smith and Kathleen Davis.

Other instrumentalists include Ann Zacconi, Ashland, and Susan Miller, Medford, on bassoons; Phebe Belford, Medford, flute; guest musicians, Tom Nugent, English horn, and Larry Brezicka, oboe, from the University of Oregon.

Vocal soloists include Steve Simmons, assistant pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Medford, who will sing the role of the shepherd; Sharyl Lonstrom, Grants Pass, who interprets the part of Mary; Kathy Gordon, Medford.

Charpentier, composer of "Midnight Mass for Christmas," has embellished the vocal score by addition of a string ensemble.

Musicians accompanying this work consist of violinist, David Elliker, Ashland; Richard Conviser, Azalea; Michael Bardossi, Talent; Larry Stubson, Medford; violist, Lyndell Stacey, Ashland; cellists, Judy Bjorlie, Ashland, and Carolann Haley, Grants Pass, and flutist, Phebe Belford.

Vocal soloists for the mass include sopranos, Bev O'Leary and Regina Glasgow, both Medford; baritone, Carroll Graber, Medford; tenor, Deane Tack, Grants Pass.

Four motets by Poulenc and a Bach's motet for double chorus are also on the program.

Family music makers

Whether they are participating in a musical group or just performing for their own enjoyment at home, the Richard Swansons find music a relaxing hobby and an important part of their family's development and happiness.

Both Dr. Swanson and Mrs. Swanson sing with the Rogue Valley Chorale, which will be giving two concerts this week in Medford. They are joined by their son, Paul, who is a junior in pre-med with a biology-anthropology major at Dartmouth College and is working in Medford until winter term begins in January.

A daughter, Janet, senior at Medford Senior High School, is too busy with the a capella choir there to keep up Chorale practice. But she and her mother play duets at home and she has done accompaniments for the a capella group and for soloists. However, her main school interest is athletics, and she is on the varsity basketball and tennis teams.

The family's oldest son, Mark, a graduate in art from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., is involved in another form of the arts. He currently is a member of the Marine Museum's Apprenticeship in Bath, Maine, where he is augmenting his knowledge of handcrafting wooden boats. When he is at home, he joins the family circle, playing the clarinet.

Dr. Swanson sings bass in the Rogue Valley Chorale, the Congregational Church choir and the Doctors Quartet. He was in a college dance band and now enjoys playing trombone in family music sessions.

Mrs. Swanson, a registered nurse, lists piano as her main music interest. She has done accompanying over the years for soloists, youth choirs and the quartet. She also sings in the church choir.

Mrs. Swanson says that being members of the Rogue Valley Chorale, the Britt Festival Chorale and the German Singing club creates opportunities for the Swansons to practice and perform challenging choral music together.