

UM's Fall Music Concert leaves audience begging for more

—Ashley Rogers—

Staff Writer

The University of Montevallo's music department presented a real treat last Tuesday, as two of its most prestigious choirs sang for a crowd of over 200 people on campus. Beginning at 7:20 p.m., students, faculty and parents began filling up LeBaron Auditorium for what was sure to be an exciting show. The two featured choirs were UM's own University Chorus and Chamber Singers. As the excitement grew, the concert began with the two choirs unified as one.

One of the newest members of the music department faculty and director of Choral Activities, Melinda S. Doyle, conducted both choirs. She is also the director of the UM Concert Choir. This was her second concert at the university. She led the choirs

with style, grace and precision.

The University Chorus successfully mastered songs that varied from the twentieth century to religious songs of the nineties. The first song, "Püeri Hebraeorum," was sung by both choirs together. As the Chamber Singers filed down the aisle steps to sing, the University Chorus members took to the risers to create a more balanced sound. During this song, the choirs were accompanied by musical instruments, from trumpets and trombones to French horns and a clarinet. The song created an echoing effect as the two choirs sang. The next three songs shook the crowd and made some cry. The first song, "The Snow," was so heartfelt that some audience members reportedly shed a tear as the violin accompanist added a solemn effect. Audience members later described the music as "heavenly in nature."

After a brief intermission, the second half of the concert featured the Chamber Singers' selections. Their songs also ranged from a classical repertoire to more contemporary selections. The most memorable song of this portion of the program, according to audience reaction, was the romantic song "How Do I Love Thee."

The hard work and dedication that the participants contributed to the concert could be seen through their performance.

One participant, Ephionny Morton, reflected on her personal opinion of the concert. "I was excited to be a part of the Fall Music Concert because I love to sing. I also love the variety of voices joined together to sing pieces of music successfully." Another participant, Ira Robinson, reflected on his own experience. "I was excited about the Fall Music Concert because the musical pieces that were sung were classy and challenged

my range as a bass singer in the choir."

The UM Fall Concert was dedicated to Rachel Ward, a former member of the University Chorus, who passed in October. The UM Concert Choir presented its Fall Music Concert and wore white ribbons to honor her. Both concerts were dedicated to her memory. Rachel will always be remembered as a dear member of the University Chorus as well as the University of Montevallo.

The concert's large turnout and rave reviews are only the beginning for these two UM choirs. Next semester they plan to be bigger and even better as they push to inspire others on UM's campus and in the surrounding community. All of the participants thanked the University of Montevallo as well as all other individuals who supported the 2011 Fall Music Concert.