

STATE AND LOCAL

King's Singers mix humor with harmony

By REBECCA ADAIR
Staff Writer

Armed with skill, experience, sheet music and a small pitch pipe, the King's Singers conquered a tough musical program with flawless ease.

A simple stage in Rudder Auditorium was the ideal setting for the six-man English ensemble, allowing nothing to take away from attention the Singers deserved.

The crowd, ranging from grade-school boys in Sunday suits to dignified white-haired patrons of the arts, was thoroughly delighted. No one could resist the group's universal humor and beautiful blend of harmony and precision.

The Singers have been entertaining audiences world-wide since the original group formed in 1968. Two originals remain, and all current members have experience in cathedral and college choirs.

The Singers took their name from King's College in Cambridge where the original six were once students.

Beginning with their entrance they were in total command of the music and the crowd, making everyone relax and enjoy the program.



The King's Singers

Photo by FRANK IRWIN

Their love and enjoyment of the music was obvious, showing up in facial expressions and communication with each other and the crowd. The music not only

flowed, it was technically perfect. Each voice had a special quality, but together the blend brought smiles to faces of listeners.

To introduce the pieces, each member took a turn telling the song's story, bringing laughs and giving the audience a glimpse of each singer's personality. Hours

of practice were hidden in each effortless number.

With closed eyes one could picture a band playing, each instrument finely tuned, including guitars, snare drums, trumpets and violins. But the Singers' performance would only have been limited by any accompaniment. Their humorous instrument imitations and sound effects made the most of already-entertaining songs.

Famous for a diverse musical repertoire, actually 1,500 rehearsed songs, the group lived up to their spotless reputation.

They began with "A Madrigal History Tour," consisting of visits to several countries, none of which needed translation because of brilliant animation.

They next moved to three religious pieces, and followed with their most complicated number of the night, a fall-from-paradise-parody called "Time Piece."

Their last section and encore were arrangements in close harmony, rounding out their humor with a parody of Grease's "Summer Nights," complete with their own "Olivia Newton Jackman" (Jeremy Jackman, countertenor).

Bill Ives, tenor, doing his best to disprove his shortness, sang the encore of Randy Newman's "Short People."

3 students die in auto accidents

Three Texas A&M students were killed in two separate car accidents during spring break.

John Chase Wilson, a senior agriculture major from Robstown, was killed in a one-car accident at about 4 a.m. March 10. The accident occurred on FM 624, about 22 miles north of Alice.

Wilson, 22, was traveling with Kenneth Tom Hefte, also a senior in agriculture, when a wheel of their car got stuck in a ditch, officials at the Department of Public Safety said.

Officials said Wilson was killed when the car backed over him as he tried to push it out of the ditch.

Hefte, 22, was charged with involuntary manslaughter in connection with the accident and was released on \$10,000 bond, officials said.

Wilson is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilson of Robstown. Funeral services for Wilson were March 11 in Robstown. He was buried in Robstown Memorial Park.

Donna Kay Reed, 22, of Alvin, and Ann Wittig, 18, of Houston, were returning to College Station from Houston Saturday when their car was hit head-on by another car traveling on Highway 6. The accident occurred near Hempstead at about 9:30 p.m.

Funeral services for Reed, a senior biomedical sciences major, were Tuesday at Martin-Carden Funeral Home in Alvin. She was buried at Blue Ridge Cemetery in Reagan. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Reed of Alvin.

Funeral services for Wittig, a freshman in general studies, also were held Tuesday at St. John's Church in Houston. She was buried at Memorial Oaks Cemetery in Houston. She is survived by her parents, Don E. Wittig and Carol A. Ashton, of Houston.

Silver Taps for all three students will be on April 2.

Gen. Simpson to be speaker at campus Muster

By ANN CERVENKA
Staff Writer

Lt. Gen. Ormond R. Simpson, a retired three-star general with the Marine Corps and assistant vice president of student services at Texas A&M, will speak at the annual Muster ceremony on campus April 21.

The Student Government Muster Committee invited President Ronald Reagan to speak at Muster. How-

ever, the committee on Monday received a letter from Reagan declining the invitation, Muster Committee Chairman Leannah Reed said.

"We were very excited about inviting President Reagan to come because it would have been a real plus to the University," she said. "But we knew that it would be a long shot."

However, committee members say they are pleased to have Simpson speak.

Jerry Dingmore, a member of the Muster Awareness Committee, added, "He was never our backup speaker."

The committee voted unanimously to invite Simpson to speak, Dingmore said. "He's going to be a very exceptional speaker," he said.

Because Simpson will retire from his position at A&M in August, Muster will be his last official ceremony, Dingmore said.

Simpson, who spoke at the Memo-

rial Student Center's Conference of Student Government Affairs, has been recommended as a speaker by students from Texas A&M as well as students from other universities.

Muster, a ceremony which honors Aggies who have died during the past year, is celebrated all over the world on San Jacinto Day.

Muster began in 1883 as a social event for alumni to relive their college days.

Musters have been held in European foxholes during World War I, on Corregidor Island in the Philippines in World War II and even in submarines.

The ceremony on campus began in 1943. A living comrade answers "here" when the roll call for the absent is read.

Muster will be at 3 p.m. on April 21 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

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