

State and Local

23 boys sing to sold-out show

Choir gives inspiring performance

By MARY McWHORTER
Staff Writer

The curtain opened Tuesday night to find 23 little boys squinting under the harsh white lights of Rudder Auditorium. Dressed in white shirts with blue handkerchiefs, navy pants and shiny black shoes, the Rudder Choir Boys gave an inspiring performance of old classics and relatively new music as well.

After the conductor, Peter Marsalis, walked on stage, took a bow, and led the choir under black and white piano, flipped back his long, black tuxedo tails, sat down, gave a short pull on his pants legs and opened his music, (all this with the flourish of a grand symphony conductor), the boys opened with their number, four pieces from "The Ye Sons of Art" by Henry Purcell, a 17th century composer.

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But perhaps the most amazing aspect of the choir was the young boys' deep concentration. All eyes were trained on the conductor during a song with only a few grins of satisfaction displayed at the end of the number to remind you of the boys' youthfulness and naivete.

The choir bowed after every piece. Even then the conductor would lead the choir as to the proper time to take a bow.

He would signal the boys by bowing first himself, and since his back was to the audience while sitting at the piano, he would actually be bow-

ing to the back of the stage. The boys could then all bow in unison.

The boys are selected to perform with the choir by examination at the age of nine. Usually two choirs of 24 choristers each are on tour at the same time and they are accompanied by a choirmaster, a tutor and a nurse. School time lost on tour is made up for by an intensive program of teaching at a private school.

The most rousing round of applause of the evening followed "Ave Maria" by 19th century composer, Zoltan Kodaly. The choir punched out this number, which gave them an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their range and volume.

The program also included an 18th century operetta (a mini opera

in one act) that was acted out by the members of the choir. Joseph Haydn's comedy "Der Apotheker" came complete with period costumes including one chorister who was dressed like a miniature Mozart.

The female lead was also played by a boy, dressed in a blue dress and wig, who gave an incredible performance. If it weren't for the obvious fact that the character was a boy, one would swear that it was a female who was doing the singing. If one were listening to a record, it would be impossible to tell the difference. The operetta concluded with a clever number that started with a solo and kept adding voices until one had a duet, a trio and a then a quartet.

The second half of the show included "Two Nocturnes" by W.A. Mozart, "Elfin Choir" from "A Midsummer Nights Dream" by Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and selections from "Jungbrunnen" by Johannes Brahms. The evening ended with three encores, including "The Vienna Waltz" and "Deep in the Heart of Texas."

Ex-President Carter visits Mexico City

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Former President Jimmy Carter, on the last leg of a five-nation tour, arrived Tuesday afternoon after speaking out against continued U.S. aid for Contra rebels fighting in Nicaragua.

In a brief statement to reporters upon arrival from El Salvador, Carter said he was here as a private citizen and as a professor at Atlanta's Emory University.

He announced the Carter Center in Georgia was planning a conference in April about the foreign debt and its long-range impact on the hemisphere. He said his trip was "designed so I can learn more about the circum-

stances of the countries that I have visited."

Carter was scheduled to visit the Chamber of Deputies and meet with President Miguel de la Madrid Wednesday.

The former president, who leaves Thursday, also visited Venezuela, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

At an airport press conference earlier Tuesday in El Salvador, Carter said he was not in favor of more aid money for the Contras fighting the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

"I have not supported continued aid to the Contras," Carter said at a news conference before leaving El Salvador.

County seeking to ensure integrity in government

Associated Press

CONROE — Montgomery County commissioners, spurred by citizen anger at elected officials accused of wrongdoing, say they are considering forming a "public integrity unit" to ensure honesty in government.

Furor surrounding last week's arrest of Commissioner Weldon Locke on a bribery charge and the resignation of Justice of the Peace Gary Collier brought a packed house to the commissioners court meeting Monday.

Locke, 43, is accused of operating a bogus invoice scheme that cheated the county out of more than \$25,000. No charges have been filed against Collier, who authorities say participated in the alleged scheme with Locke.

Montgomery County Judge Jimmie Edwards said he is considering the creation of a public integrity unit "to ensure correct and honest operation of county government."

Meanwhile, prosecutors have withdrawn a civil lawsuit aimed at removing Locke from office since State District Judge P.K. Reiter delayed ruling on suspending Locke until Feb. 25.

Insurance agent Lynn Tipton, 60, told the commissioners he would reactivate a county taxpayers' group to fight future road bonds.

South Montgomery County resident Clyde B. Tiroux, 67, addressed the court and said, "the last alleged incident of misconduct has been devastating."

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1.86 carats	10,900.00	5,225.00
1.76 carats	4,500.00	2,875.00
1.57 carats	5,500.00	3,575.00
1.55 carats	6,900.00	3,875.00
1.54 carats	6,500.00	3,675.00
1.41 carats	6,500.00	3,475.00
1.33 carats	6,200.00	3,495.00
1.42 carats	6,100.00Sold	3,295.00
1.24 carats	3,300.00	1,775.00
1.10 carats	4,500.00	2,395.00
1.04 carats	4,700.00	2,825.00
1.09 carats	4,700.00	2,825.00
1.08 carats	3,900.00	2,795.00
1.07 carats	3,300.00	1,695.00
1.03 carats	3,700.00	1,950.00
1.03 carats	6,500.00	3,235.00
1.02 carats	4,900.00	2,695.00
1.01 carats	3,700.00	1,950.00
1.01 carats	3,500.00	1,850.00
1.01 carats	3,300.00	1,750.00
1.00 carats	4,100.00	2,075.00
1.00 carats	3,400.00Sold	1,850.00
1.00 carats	3,500.00	1,995.00
1.00 carats	4,000.00	2,095.00
.97 carats	3,500.00	1,975.00
.96 carats	3,400.00	1,950.00
.83 pts	2,400.00	1,395.00
.82 pts	2,500.00	1,225.00
.81 pts	2,300.00	1,195.00
.81 pts	1,800.00Sold	995.00
.80 pts	2,900.00Sold	1,600.00
.79 pts	2,100.00	1,175.00
.76 pts	2,200.00	1,125.00
.75 pts	1,800.00	925.00
.71 pts	2,700.00	1,395.00
.70 pts	2,000.00	995.00
.66 pts	1,900.00	975.00
.65 pts	1,500.00	855.00
.65 pts	1,600.00	815.00
.63 pts	1,500.00	825.00
.63 pts	1,475.00	780.00
.62 pts	1,900.00	975.00
.62 pts	1,900.00	975.00
.62 pts	1,500.00	750.00
.61 pts	1,500.00	775.00
.60 pts	1,500.00	750.00
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.49 pts	1,600.00	795.00
.48 pts	1,600.00	735.00
.47 pts	1,700.00	695.00
.46 pts	1,150.00	595.00
.46 pts	1,100.00	585.00
.46 pts	1,100.00	585.00
.45 pts	1,100.00	520.00
.44 pts	1,100.00	660.00
.42 pts	600.00	300.00
.27 pts	550.00	270.00
.26 pts	525.00	265.00
.25 pts	495.00	235.00
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.55 pts	1,700.00	895.00
.40 pts	695.00	325.00
.39 pts	895.00	465.00
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.35 pts	845.00	425.00
.33 pts	695.00	395.00
.30 pts	650.00	365.00
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.71 pts	2,900.00	1,495.00
.63 pts	1,400.00	895.00
.45 pts	775.00	425.00
.44 pts	785.00	335.00
.38 pts	675.00	285.00
.32 pts	480.00	240.00
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