

Century Singers

Choirs to perform classic
Brahm's *Requiem* tonight

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

To hear quality classical music, Bryan-College Station residents often have to travel to Houston or Dallas. But tonight, the Texas A&M Century Singers will be bringing that music to Rudder Auditorium.

The Century Singers will perform Brahms' *Requiem* at 8 p.m. in collaboration with the Brazos Valley Symphony and the Brazos Valley Chorale.

Jess Wade, director of the Century Singers and artistic director of the Brazos Valley Chorale, said the concert will offer a unique opportunity to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

"This is a chance to hear one of a very small handful of chorale, symphonic masterpieces found here," Wade said. "This is the kind of opportunity you just shouldn't miss."

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— Jess Wade
director of the Century Singers

Suzannah Taylor, vice president of the Century Singers and a junior speech communications major, said the concert will show off the talents of the three groups.

"This is an excellent opportunity to share our music and work with the community," Taylor said. "This is a unique chance on our campus to share in the experience through our talent."

The Century Singers offers a type of talent that differs from the performing groups that often visit the Texas A&M campus, Taylor said.

"A&M is able to bring a lot of talent to perform through student organizations like OPAS," she said. "But it is also great for our school and community to have its own talent."

Tonight's concert will be performed in German, but an English translation will be offered during the program.

Wade said the requiem is different from the requiems most people are familiar with.

"This is a consolation for the living type of requiem," he said. "This is the kind of music this community and university community don't get to experience very often."

"The music most students are familiar with is the type of music that will last very long. This is music that's been around a long time and will continue to be around."

Taylor said the group is expecting a good turnout for the concert because people in the A&M and Bryan-College Station communities are becoming more interested in the classical music.

"Awareness is increasing," she said. "As A&M continues to grow, people are more willing to come and listen."

"One of our main goals is exposure to a lot of different kinds of music for our students, for ourselves and for our community."

Making time



Robyn Calloway, THE BATTALION

Charlie Crum, junior microbiology major, and Adam Thyen, junior industrial engineering major, play with their dogs Shadow and Bubba in Research Park.

Students take on extra responsibility of pets

By Rachel Barry
THE BATTALION

Oskar has his own room complete with his picture on the door. When Summer Giffin, a junior international studies and finance major comes home, he will be waiting and wagging his tail.

Oskar is Giffin's dachshund, making him one of the many pets in Bryan-College Station that is dependent on a college student.

Even though finding the time, money and energy to take care of one's self is difficult, many students add the responsibility of taking care of another life.

"He requires a lot of attention," she said. "Giving him enough attention is the hardest thing to do."

After living at home and having a pet, some students might want to fill the void left when they come to school and are left without the company of an animal friend.

The void can be filled with something as low-maintenance as fish, or as attention-needy as a flying squirrel. Somewhere in between, there are dogs and cats.

"I got him for companionship," Giffin said. "I had always wanted one."

Companionship is one thing, but sometimes the frustration of taking care of that friend outweighs the joy of having the animal around.

Giffin said her dog has a definite response to a lack of attention.

"He gets depressed and looks and you and makes you feel guilty for not spending time with him," she said.

Spending time with Oskar is fun but very demanding, Giffin said. Oskar's play schedule does not always coincide with Giffin's study schedule.

"If I am studying and he is trying to play with me, I feel so guilty, so I stop whatever I'm doing to make him happier," she said.

Having a pet in the house not only adds re-

sponsibilities to its owner's life, but to the other roommates, as well.

Weslie Szymandera, a junior international studies major, helps take care of Shiner, her roommate's dog.

She said that having a roommate who has a dog is nice because it shifts the major responsibilities to them.

"It takes a lot of dedication," she said, "but it is easier for us because there is one person who really takes care of her."

Shiner, a blue healer, is a puppy and sometimes gets a little rambunctious.

"She adds excitement to the house," she said. "If she wasn't here you would definitely notice."

Giffin said coming home after a long day at school and having a friend waiting to play can make the day better. She said the reciprocation of affection is worth the added responsibilities.

"People think it's a toy that you can just put up whenever you want to, and it's not."

— Diana Farrow
Brazos Animal Shelter

"Dogs can't lie," she said. "I know that he loves me."

There is a price students have to pay to keep their pets.

When the food runs out for Oskar, he can't go to the grocery store or to the nearest vending machine to get his fill.

"If he doesn't have food, I can't just wait and get it tomorrow," Giffin said. "I have to stop and get it right then."

Although Oskar can be an added responsibility, Giffin said he has his advantages.

"It's a pain sometimes because if I want to stay somewhere, I can't," she said. "But he can

be a good excuse if I don't want to stay, too."

Coming home at 3 a.m. and finding trash strewn across the kitchen can test her patience for Shiner, Szymandera said.

"When he's good, he's everybody's dog," she said. "But when he's bad, he's Sara's dog."

It is hard for some people to understand what goes into taking care of an animal. A cute and cuddly friend can be more responsibility than some students are able to handle.

Szymandera said if a student realizes they can't take care of their pet, they need to give it to someone who can.

"You have to test your boundaries first to see how much you can handle," she said.

Diana Farrow, a customer service representative at the Brazos Animal Shelter, said there are students who are good pet owners and the animal shelter tries to help all pet owners understand what they will have to do for their pets.

She said students often do not realize the expenses included in owning a pet. She said they may be able to afford buying the pet right then but they don't realize there will be follow-up shots, food to buy and vet bills to pay for many years.

Giffin said students need to understand the difference between an animal and a toy.

"People think it's a toy that you can just put up whenever you want to, and it's not," she said.

Farrow said pets can add responsibilities and fun to college students normally hectic lives.

"A lot of the students are here from far away places and are living by themselves for the first time," she said. "It is also a good ice breaker if you are at the park with your pet. It is a good way to meet people."

She said many students decide they want a pet and get it before they think about what responsibilities go along with owning a pet.

"They want it right then," she said. "Later, when the cuteness had worn off, and it has gotten bigger, they find they don't want it anymore."

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