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Choral Society's silver anniversary Dale Wood creates a cantata

By TED BROWN
Staff Writer

When Georgetown Choral Society opens its Christmas Cantata November 29, the audience will be treated to the debut of some unique music in celebration of the season.

Georgetown Choral Society director Dale Wood composed the entire musical score to *Star Over Bethlehem*, a full-length cantata to be performed during the second half of the presentation. The special concert is held in celebration of the Choral Society's 25th anniversary and the score was written to celebrate the event.



Dale Wood composed *Star Over Bethlehem* to be performed for the first time Nov. 29.

"I was commissioned by the Choral Society to write the music in the spring, but because of other commitments, it was summer before I really got into the actual writing," says Wood. "During the months of July and August, I was working eight to 10 hours a day to complete it in time."

Although the lyrics incorporate some scripture and some text written by Choral Society alto Debbie Snook, more than half of the lyrics are original, written by Wood, and all the musical score was composed by him.

The complete cantata features 13

different songs and takes approximately 40 minutes.

"It (the Cantata) tells the Christmas story," says Wood, "Which is a straightforward story that we all know. My challenge was to create a different presentation and tell the story with a fresh approach."

The performance features 85 members of the more than 100 member Choral Society, as well as 41 members of the Georgetown Children's Chorus.

The work also features four solos and a duet between Joseph and Mary, which Wood feels is a unique part of the performance.

"I don't know of any other piece of Christmas music that

incorporates a duet between Mary and Joseph," says Wood. "So I wrote it to give the work a new dimension to the Christmas story."

One song, *Noel*, is sung in Latin, but the remainder is in English.

Although Wood has written numerous single pieces of music in his 21 years with the Choral Society, this marks the first full scale production. "I was honored to be asked to write it," admits Wood, "Because I've never been asked to work on something of this magnitude."

The concert will be held at Holy Cross Church, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tooth Chatter



by
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TRENTON
DENTURIST

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