Music was the bond that tied the world together during two commemorative performances by the Westminster Choir College (WCC) on the somber day of Wednesday, Sept. 11.

The 125-voice Westminster Symphonic choir led by Zdenek Macal, presented a tribute to the victims and heroes of Sept. 11 through songs during "A Requiem for September 11" at Liberty Park in New Jersey. The symphonic choir performed Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem.

"A requiem is a type of funeral mass to honor the memory of the people who are resting eternally," said sophomore music education major Lindsay Jackson. "Verdi was an emotional and dramatic opera writer."

The goal of the "In the Shadow of the Towers" program was to unite people to find solace through the use of words and lyrics in each other.

During the "In the Shadow of the Towers" program, President George W. Bush made an introduction while readings of the writings of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Lincoln were read. Various requiems including Kyrie were sung with the 40-voice Westminster Choir.

This particular program was recorded in the Princeton University Chapel with organ and chamber ensemble accompanying the choir for some works.

The performances were nationally broadcasted on Public Radio International affiliates and Public Broadcasting Services (PBS).

Due to the strong wind, which would interrupt the singers, the live performance was cancelled; however, the rehearsal was taped and aired at 10:00 pm.

"Even though the concert was cancelled, the choirs were still able to perform," said junior and symphonic choir performer Amanda Berry. "We got to perform an a cappella section of another requiem for the governor of New York."

Students of both choirs were required to go through extensive rehearsals, run-throughs and practices at the concert sites with the orchestra.

"You have to be so emotional to perform music," said Jackson. "Music can be the one thing that can bring a whole community together."

According to Berry, it’s amazing to have been there and have learned the piece in only four to five days.

"It’s an interesting experience because we don’t have any way to serve the community but through our voices and song," said Berry.

Students were invited by WCC to take a bus provided by the college to the concert; however, halfway into the ride, passengers received noticed that the performance was cancelled.

"It would’ve been emotionally satisfying to have attended the concert because of this day, which is such a sad occasion," said Jackson. "This would have brought a peaceful atmosphere."

WCC students were proud of their compatriots who got to be a part of the concert.

"I was really excited," said Stephanie Naylis, junior and Student Government Association president of WCC. "It was a great opportunity for those who were unable to be a part of the performance to be a part of it. It was a disappointment that it was cancelled, but it got us to come together."

When word got back to the campus, Naylis and her peers decided to assemble a gathering, "Westminster Unites to Remember 9/11" at 9:00 p.m. to get students together to watch the Verdi requiem when it aired.

Joseph Flummerfelt was the conductor that led the choir during its performance, along with Nancianne Parrella, who was the assistant conductor and accompanist of Westminster choir.

The performance of the requiem was done in collaboration with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, who has worked with WCC’s symphonic choir for many years. One of their collaborative performances, Dvorak’s Requiem, received a 2001 Grammy Award.

Fellow students were so excited that their peers were performing in such a highly prestigious concert.

"One of the most premier choirs singing the Verdi Requiem, what could possibly be better than that,” said freshman Alex Woźniak.

RIDER UNIVERSITY 2083 LAWRENCEVILLE ROAD LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ
In Memorial: September 11

A Citizen's Voice

In Memoriam: September 11

We just wanted to do something in honor and in memory of those who were lost in the attacks.

represented the hope that together, we can make things better.

Students needed comfort, and Poyda stood up and provided it, said LoGrasso. "People needed to do something to recognize that day.

Students, with their candles still flaming, walked over to the Student Center Theatre to take part in the next section of the program.

Dr. Tony Campbell welcomed students to the ceremony, commenting that he was overwhelmed by the amount of support that the Rider community was providing for each other.

Erin Smith, a sophomore and resident advisor, then performed a song that she had written. It was originally composed about the death of her friend's mother, but she had changed it slightly after the events of Sept. 11. The audience was absolutely silent during the rendition.

"In the end, we lost one current student and eight alumni, and many people in the Rider community lost friends and family," said Dr. Bart Lodecke, who took the stage next. He invited up two students to unveil the memorial plaque.

"It read, 'The Rider University community remembers with great sorrow those who were lost in the September 11 attacks.' He also listed the Rider victims, Smith then led the theatre in singing "God Bless America.""