



The Rider News

The student newspaper of the Rider community since 1930

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SONGS CAN HEAL REMEMBERING 9/11 Westminster sings a tribute to victims and heroes

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 accapella section of another requiem for the governor of New York."

Students of both choirs were required to go through extensive rehearsals, run-outs 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 can brings 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."

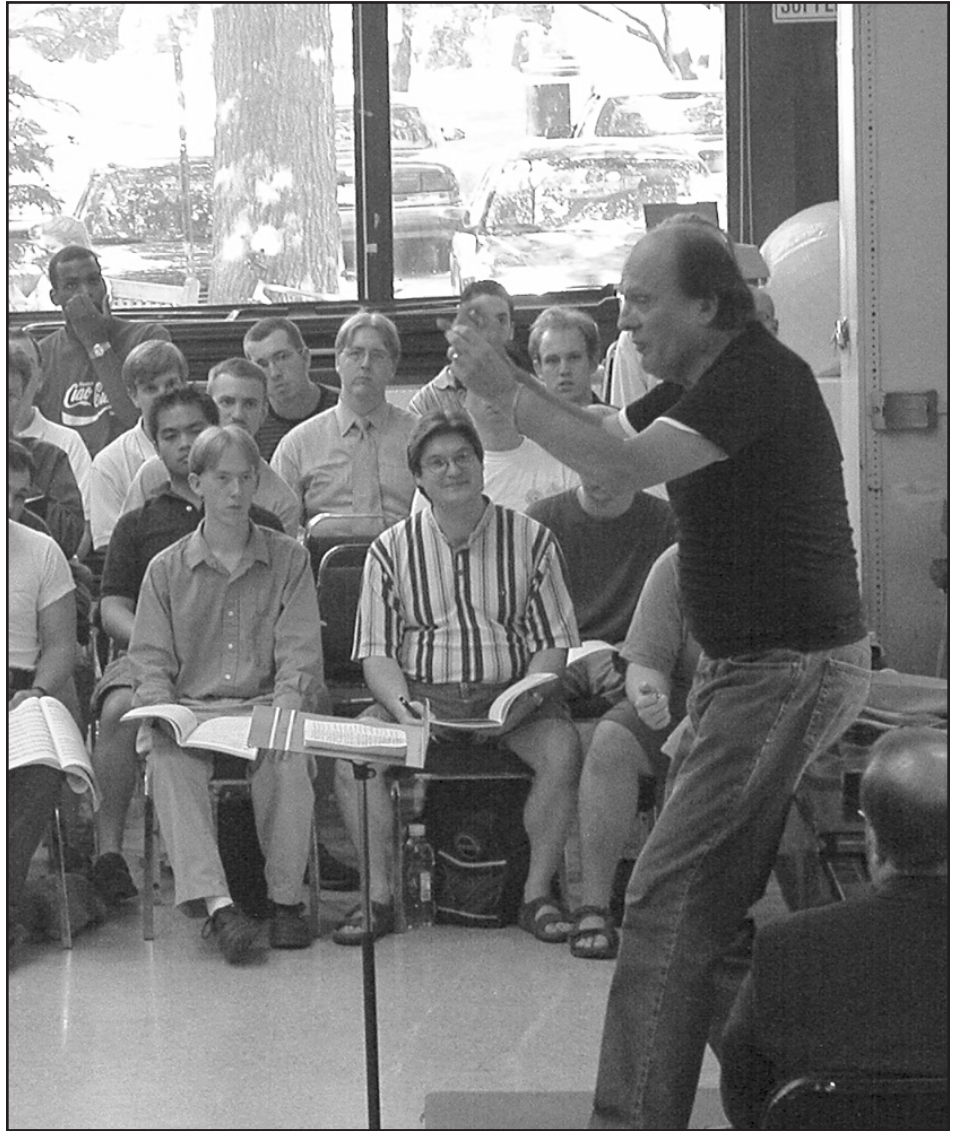
When word got back to the campus, Naylis and her peers decided to assemble a gathering, "Westminster Unites to Remember 9/11" at 9:00 p.m. to get students together to watch the Verdi requiem when it aired.

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 Wolniak.



Photos by Dr. Edward Carmien

Juniors, seniors and graduates (top) of Westminster Choir College (WCC) (bottom) rehearse for their prestigious performance of the Verdi Requiem. The singers of the well-known symphonic choir went through extensive days of practices. The concert was nationally broadcasted on PBS on Sept. 11, 2002.



REMEMBERING 9/11

A CITIZEN'S VOICE IN MEMORIAM: SEPTEMBER 11

STUDENTS LOOK BACK

By Melissa Borotto

Sorrow for the people who suffered losses was the strongest feeling for sophomore Leanne Moore, who did not know anyone who died.

She felt Rider handled the event well.

"It was right to have people continue to go to classes," she said.

Moore takes a somewhat active interest in the political side of what was happening, because she had not been aware of the issues before Sept. 11. She now better understands the issues, but like many college students, she still does not comprehend the reasoning behind the attacks.

The war on terrorism turned

personal for Moore when her cousin, who is a Marine and only one year older than she is, was shipped over to Afghanistan.

Moore does not think that the United States should become involved in a war. Starting a war will not solve anything, she said.

"War just might make tensions worse if things keep going back and forth," she said.

This does not mean that Moore thinks the United States should sit back and do nothing.

"I think the U.S. should do what we have to do, but I don't think the fighting should be pointless."

By Jennifer Wahrhaftig

For sophomore Camille Peaks, the events of Sept. 11 were shocking.

"I just couldn't believe it," she said. "How did this happen to us, America? This is something that only happens to third world countries."

Overcome with worry, she tried to get in touch with her mom, who works in Newark near the airport. She finally learned that her whole family was at her grandmother's house. A little later, she learned that a friend of the family, who works on the 90th floor of Tower 1 of the World Trade

Center, was able to run to safety.

Once reassured that her family was OK, Peaks was able to relax somewhat.

Meanwhile, the campus was chaotic as sirens and helicopters could be seen and heard, and rumors were flying.

The attacks have affected Peaks. Now she is hesitant to fly anywhere.

"I used to love to fly," Peaks said. "But now, I just think it would be scary, and I would be inadvertently checking out the other passengers to see if they looked suspicious."

A little over a year ago, America and most of her citizens felt, to some extent, safe in their homes, in their states, and in their country. Sept. 11, 2001, changed that, and America, forever.

No one who was alive during that day could fail to be unmoved. Whose heart failed to sink the moment it was realized that it was not an accident, but a deliberate, premeditated attack on our beloved country? Who can ever forget the image of a seemingly impenetrable building collapsing into ruins? Whose ears do not sometimes ring with the cries of those who lay dying in the dust? And who does not carry with them a fragment of the immobilizing fear felt on that day?

We ask ourselves how this could have possibly happened to America. How could we, widely accepted as the most powerful nation in the world, have been caught so unawares? There have certainly been enough theories and opinions on that question, but it is not the point.

The anniversary of Sept. 11 should not be about blame or anger or internal strife. Yes, the government, the FBI, the CIA and others probably could have done more to protect us, but let's not forget the true villain of the piece. We were attacked. Attacked without warning or provocation. We all are the victims, not the perpetrators.

This day is about remembering. As painful as it is, we, as Americans, owe it to our heroes to remember exactly what happened to them, exactly what they died for. We must remember our fear so that



LAURA SASS

we will not allow it to happen again.

Most importantly, we must remember our strength. We did not fall, we did not give in. We survived, and we are now fighting with everything we have to make sure it does not happen to us again. America overcame the attack, and that cannot be forgotten.

The first anniversary of September 11 has come and gone. It has been one year after the greatest tragedy America has ever known. One year after President Bush declared war on terrorism. One year after a day of death and sorrow, but also of heroes and miracles. One year after we learned how truly vulnerable we are, but also how strong we really are. We could, and should ask what exactly has been accomplished in that year. But right now, I am content, and proud, simply to know that I am an American, and America is strong.

Campus comes together to remember 9/11

By Laura Sass
Executive Editor

Sept. 11 at Rider University was marked not only by a ceremony at which Anthony Campbell, dean of students and associate vice president of student affairs, spoke at, but also by an interfaith service, a candle light vigil, and a moment of silence.

"One year ago, we all came together as a community: faculty, students, and staff. We prayed, we cried, we hugged, we loved, we shared. Today we not only remember the Sept. 11th tragedy and those who were lost, but the way we, the Rider community, responded to it," said Campbell on the first anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks.

The moment of silence at Rider University took place at 8:48 A.M., as did the national one. At that time, according to the university website, faculty, staff, students, and visitors to campus were invited to stop for a moment of personal reflection.

An interfaith service, entitled, "A Time for Healing," took place at noon at the Gill Memorial Chapel. It was led by Father Bruno Ugliano, Rev. Nancy Schluter, Rabbi Daniel Grossman, and Iman Abdul-Malik R. Ali.

"We knew that there were secular services planned for that evening, so we didn't want to interfere with them. We finally decided to provide services during that day. Even if only a few people

came, it would be worth it." Rev. Nancy Schluter explained.

Although the campus ministry was unsure of how high the turnout would be, the chapel was completely packed.

"The aim of the service was to emphasize that this is a time for healing without minimizing the losses people experienced," Schluter said. "We wanted people to walk away with hope and a sense of peace."

The night of Sept. 11, 2002 was alight with candles, as a vigil took place in front of Poyda residence hall. Students gathered outside the lake in order to pay tribute to those whose were lost.

"We just wanted to do something in honor and in memory of those who were lost in the attacks," said Nancy Capasso, a Resident Advisor (RA) in Poyda and one of the planners of the event. "At first we were just going to invite Poyda residents, but then we decided that the entire campus could benefit from it."

Over two hundred and fifty people attended, far surpassing the expectations of those who organized it.

"We provided two hundred candles for the event," explained John LoGrasso, an RA at Poyda and the person responsible for organizing the vigil. "We ran out of the candles, but people just kept coming."

The candle, according to Capasso,

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 just 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 Ludeke, 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." It also listed the Rider victims. Smith then led the theatre in singing "God Bless America."

Stephen Allen, instructor in the Fine Arts department, then introduced Verdi's Requiem and invited students to stay and watch a televised performance of the song that the Westminster Symphonic Choir had done earlier that day. As the last notes of the *Requiem* faded, so ended Sept. 11 at Rider University.

There was a high attendance rate to all of the events offered on campus to comfort students. On the whole, students seem to have been pleased with the university's efforts.

"I didn't lose anybody, but I know people on my floor who did," said Stefanie Spagd, a freshman Poyda resident. "It was really important to me to have the chance to support them by coming to these programs."

"My mom was there, in the World Trade Center, on that day," said Mark Castillo, a sophomore. "She's okay, but going to these events is my way of giving thanks that she made it when so many others didn't."