



Greetings, History Fans.... well, the holiday season is upon us, and for SMCC, that means our 22nd annual performance of **Highlights from Handel's Messiah**. (Mark your calendars for Saturday night, December 5, at 6:30 p.m.--if you're new to the college or have never seen it, it's an inspirational performance!)

But you might not be aware of the history of this event, which predates our Performing Arts Center by more than a decade... here's a look back at how things were in the early years of SMCC's "Messiah," circa 1991--before it was even held on our campus!

College Seeks Singers for Community 'Messiah' Concert at Mountain Pointe High School

Singers are needed to take part in a March 10th performance at Mountain Pointe High School of selections from Handel's "Messiah" by the South Mountain Messiah Community Chorus. This is the third year for the chorus's popular presentation of the world-famous oratorio.

First organized by Ahwatukee resident JoAnn Kratzer, who remains integrally involved in this year's production, the Ahwatukee concert is now sponsored by the Music Department at South Mountain Community College.

The chorus and soloists will be accompanied by an orchestra. Combined with the college's choir and community members from other parts of the Valley, 80-100 singers are antici-



Dr. Jerome Garrison directs the Messiah rehearsals.

ipated to participate in this landmark event.

Dr. Jerome Garrison, the music director at South Mountain Community College and an Ahwatukee resident, will conduct the concert. "We are delighted that JoAnn contacted us to carry on this very worthy project within the communities south of South Mountain Park," Dr. Garrison said.

Last spring, the Messiah Community Chorus performed to a large audience at Mountain View Lutheran Church in Ahwatukee.

Kate Lynch-Randall, the college's public relations director who sings with the community chorus and also with a vocal quartet at

Mountain View Lutheran Church, says that much of the credit for establishing this caliber of community entertainment should be given to Mrs. Kratzer and the dedicated group of community volunteers who comprise the Messiah Community Chorus Committee.

"This wonderful group of people has tirelessly held bake sales and knocked on doors to raise funds and has taken responsibility for setting up rehearsals, hiring a music director, raising funds and overseeing the multitude of details that are inevitable when you plan an event of this magnitude," said Ms. Lynch-Randall.

Rehearsals for "Messiah" begin Feb. 11, 1991. Twenty possible rehearsal sessions - both day and evening - are available. Participants are required to attend at least two rehearsals - including a dress rehearsal from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 9th. Dr. Garrison recommends that singers who have never performed "Messiah" before should attend at least five rehearsals. The college's AV Department also has each part on tape that can be reproduced on a provided blank tape for home practice.

A special orientation meeting will be held Sunday, February 10th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 36th Street and Knox. All singers who would like to participate should either attend that session or register by calling Sylvia Villaverde, 243-8012, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For more information about the program or to help with community fund-raising efforts, contact JoAnn Kratzer, 496-0777.