

SCHOOLS

Piedmont Concert Choir performs in New Orleans



Members of Piedmont Choir's Concert Choir rehearse in their hotel in New Orleans.



The Concert Choir performed before an audience of 700 people in New Orleans' historic St. Louis Cathedral for the Crescent City Choral Festival.

By James Gage

The Piedmont East Bay Children's Concert Choir returned from a five-day tour of New Orleans, June 22-27, where they participated in the Crescent City Choral Festival. The festival is hosted by the New Orleans Children's Chorus, under the umbrella of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival Foundation.

The choir rehearsed their festival pieces at the Loews New Orleans Hotel, where they were staying, outside the French Quarter. Later that night they surprised some people on St. Louis Street in the French Quarter with an impromptu performance on the steps of the Louisiana Courthouse, drawing spectators who cheered them on.

Under the direction of Conductor Andrew Brown, the choir performed an African choral piece entitled *Siyahamba*.

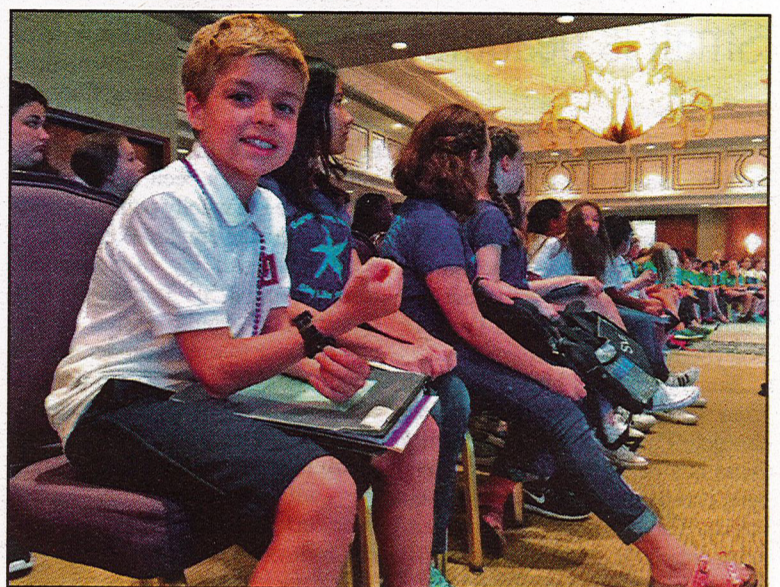
On its final night in town, the Concert Choir performed at the historic St. Louis Cathedral in the city's French Quarter. After spending a day resting their voices, the group was ready to wow the crowd of 700 that packed the cathedral pews to capacity that evening.

The choir performed *Urgic Landscapes*, a piece they performed in March in Berkeley during their *Mysterious Connection* concert, and a Bob Chilcott original composition entitled *Jazz Mass*, which was written for the Crescent City Choral Festival several years ago.

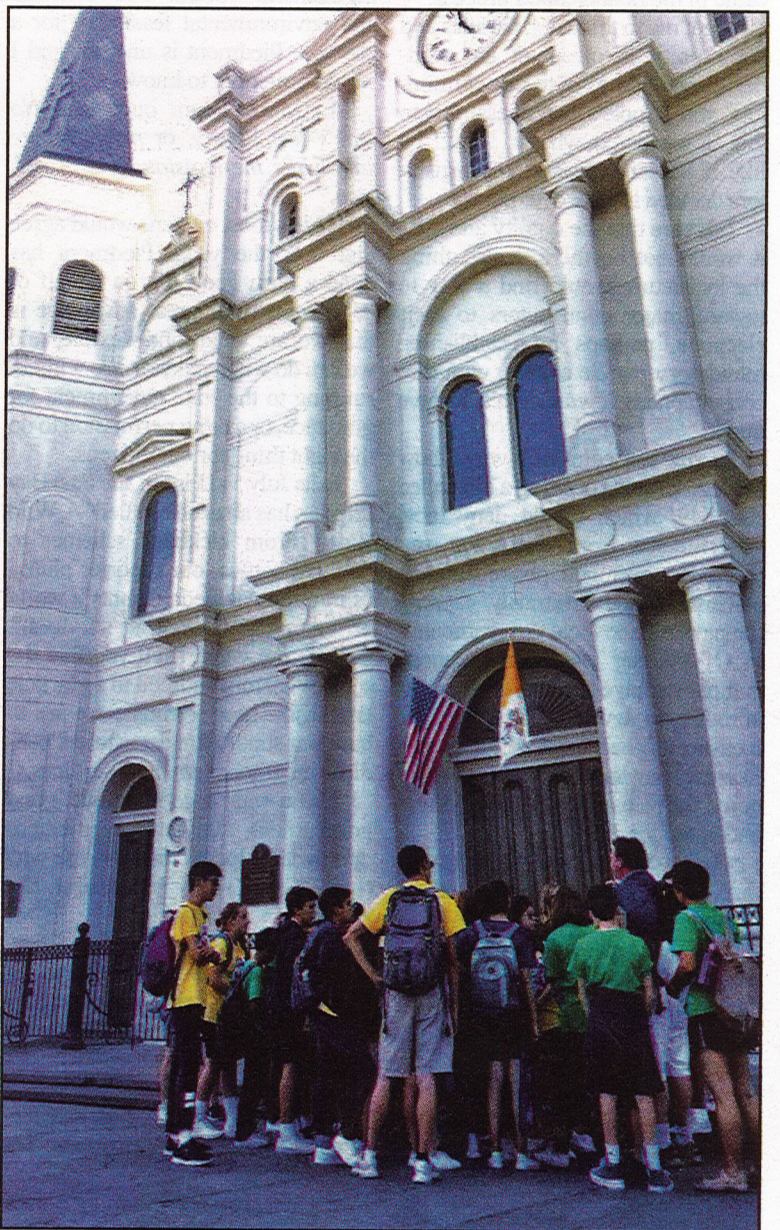
Choir members had a great time taking in all the sights, smells, and sounds of the Big Easy, including visits to the Voodoo Museum, the Aquarium of the Americas, Mardi Gras World, and the Preservation Hall, with time to tour the creole cottages and cobbled alleys of the French Quarter.

"The kids really enjoyed it," said tour manager Alice Del-Simone. "We got to see a really unique view of New Orleans culture."

The group finished their tour of New Orleans with a riverboat cruise down the Mississippi.



Tim Warncke rehearses with choirs from around the U.S.



The Concert Choir gets ready to enter St. Louis Cathedral in the French Quarter of New Orleans in preparation of their evening performance.

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