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Photo caption: The RMC chamber choir sang in St. Patrick’s in April 2013

RMC Concert and Chamber Choir voices swell to fill St. Patrick's April 5

BILLINGS, March 11, 2014 – The august spaces and gorgeous acoustics of St. Patrick Co-Cathedral in Billings swell to the voices of the Rocky Mountain College Concert Choir and Chamber Choir in a free concert Saturday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Listeners will experience the art music of Vivaldi and compare the flavor of Russian folk music to American folk music, said Steven Hart, professor of music. “Choral ensembles love singing in St. Patrick Co-Cathedral. The acoustics favor choirs. They can hear their sound reflected back to them, and it's truly a beautiful place to perform.”

The choirs begin with the Vivaldi Credo, the composer’s only setting of the Nicene Creed. Quavering rhythms and the E minor key lend depth to the text that begins joyfully, “I believe.”

The choir will then feature two Russian and two American folk song arrangements. The songs in Russian use typical deep bass voices and evocative minor harmonies: “Brooms,” an energetic piece, uses a nonsensical play on words, while “A Little Golden Cloud” paints a musical picture of the Russian countryside. “We are fortunate to have a native Russian speaker to coach the ensemble in pronunciation,” said Hart.

Soloists include Koree MacMurdie, music education major from Whitehall, Mont., and Keli Rae Mitchell, music performance major from Golden, Colo. Concert pianists Sandi Rabas and Arle Lohof share accompanist roles.

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