

Southwestern Singers to Perform with Enid Symphony

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The Southwestern Singers, a select mixed choral ensemble conducted by Charles Klingman of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Music Department in Weatherford, has been invited by the Enid Symphony to perform the German Requiem by Johannes Brahms.

There will be two performances, one in Enid on Saturday, April 2, and the second in Weatherford on Sunday, April 3, at 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church. Soloists are Lawanna Newell, soprano, and Jeffrey Ambrosini, baritone.

According to Klingman, this choral work is considered to be one of the greatest works of the 19th century, though it is not often heard because of its difficulty.

The work will be performed in English with a choir of nearly 100 singers and 56 orchestral musicians. The conductor of the Enid Philharmonic and the Symphony Chorus is Douglas Newell. During the 22 years Newell has conducted and managed the orchestra, Klingman has performed as guest soloist several times, including the Ninth Symphony of Beethoven, the Requiem in d minor of Mozart, and the Carmina Burana by Carl Orff.

The Weatherford performance will be dedicated to the memory of Senator Ed Berrong and in honor of Winnie Ola Berrong of Weatherford. The Berrong family recently donated the first ever endowed chair in music to SWOSU in the amount of \$250,000. Klingman said the endowment, matched by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, has begun a new level of growth and excitement in the music department. The Berrong family will be special guests of the department at the concert.

Because of expenses involved of the Enid Symphony coming to Weatherford for the Sunday performance, there will be an admission charge of \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. No advance tickets will be sold, so patrons should arrive early for best seating.