

World's oldest and foremost boys' choir to perform in Washington, D.C.

The world's oldest and foremost boys' choir, the Thomanerchor of Leipzig, Germany, under the direction of Maestro Georg Christopher Biller, will perform Saturday, Feb. 7, 1998, at 4 p.m., at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, D.C.

The Thomanerchor has been in existence for over nine hundred years. It derives its supreme quality from the highest musical standards and religious zeal of its most famous mentor: Johann Sebastian Bach, who directed the choir from 1723 through 1750, composing many works especially for it.

The Thomanerchor is synonymous with the best tradition in choral and church music. For centuries, it has demonstrated the significance of excellence in education through great music. Today, its exclusive recordings by Philips and Gramophone receive the highest acclaim from experts and the general public alike.

The concert will feature works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Siegfried Thiele, and Volker Brautigam.

The Washington performance is one of three exclusive concerts to be performed by the Thomanerchor during its first post-World War II visit to the United States. (Prior to Germany's unification, the Communist regime in East Germany prohibited the Thomanerchor from performing in the United States.) The other concerts will take place in Houston, Texas and in New York City.

In addition to the D.C. concert, Maestro Biller and the Thomanerchor will participate in a Washington symposium on "Excellence in Education through Music," to be held at Ward Hall at Catholic University, Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations are required for the symposium due to limited seating. The concert and the symposium are being presented by Citizens for Excellence in Education through Music, in arrangement with Intermuse and Contours Performing Artists Agencies.

For more information, call Diane Sare in Washington at (202) 544-8704.



The Thomanerchor, from Leipzig, Germany, will tour the United States in February 1998. J.S. Bach once directed the choir, which has existed for over 900 years.