

Salt Lake Choral Artists celebrate Beatles

By Edward Reichel

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For their February concerts, the Salt Lake Choral Artists always like to do a lighter program. And that's to give the singers a break from their usual repertoire, music director Brady Allred said.

"In the past, we've done jazz, Broadway and love songs," Allred told the Deseret News.

This year, however, it's going to be a little different.

The program focuses on The Beatles. "It's music that appeals to older and younger generations," Allred said. "There's been such a resurgence of popularity in The Beatles' songs among teenagers. I thought we should take advantage of that."

This is the first time Allred has done this kind of program anywhere, and it has paid off.

Only one concert was originally scheduled this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Libby Gardner Concert Hall. But that sold out quickly, and Allred decided to add a second performance at 2 p.m.

The concert will also feature the premiere of SLCA's new children's choir, a group of 70 children ranging in age from 8 to 14.

"We started the children's choir in January specifically for this concert," Allred said. "But the response was so overwhelming that this will be a yearlong choir with an education program."

The Beatles' songs adapt themselves well for choral arrangements, Allred said. "I was actually surprised when I saw how many songs have been arranged for choir."

Among the arrangements the choir will sing are several that have been made for the King's Singers.

Joining SLCA for the concert will be the local a cappella group T Minus 5 and the Beatles cover band Get Back. "Both groups are really wonderful. Get Back knows all the Beatles songs, and they like them."

Allred hopes concertgoers will have as much fun as he and the choir have had preparing the program.

"It's going to be a new experience for the audience, but I hope they're going to join in and clap and maybe even dance in the aisles."

If you go...

What: "Beatlemania," Salt Lake Choral Artists, Brady Allred, conductor

Where: Libby Gardner Concert Hall, University of Utah

When: Feb. 20, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

How much: \$15 general admission (matinee); \$19.75 general admission; \$15.75 senior citizens and students (evening)

Phone: 801-581-7100 (for evening performance only)

Web: saltlakechoralartists.org (for matinee performance only)

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