

Nebraska Choral Arts Society: offering intangibles through song

by MARJORIE MAAS

Teachers and parents want youth to learn the intangibles: self-confidence, commitment, strong work ethics, professionalism and friendship. A longtime group in the Omaha metro area offers this as well as the thrill of performance.

Led by a fully-professional staff, the Nebraska Choral Arts Society is the umbrella organization for eight choirs. Seven of them represent different collections of youth second through twelfth grades in the Nebraska Children's Chorus and CAST (Choral Arts Society Teens) in graduated levels of commitment and proficiency.

The most advanced choirs of NCAS have performed internationally in choral music festivals and concerts in Europe, Asia and Africa, but travel is icing on the cake. The week-to-week

rehearsals where friends are made and skills are increased, culminating in high quality concerts any audience would appreciate, is the true reward.

And this isn't a new organization. NCAS has a long history beginning in 1978 with a community adult chorus, Masterworks. To serve different geographic regions of the area, and create a progression from beginning chorus to an advanced ensemble, the organization grew accordingly.

The NCAS mission statement speaks to this focus: To share the gift of great choral music, inspire new generations with the love of singing, and broaden its reach to all ages and cultures.

If you are interested in learning more, visit: www.choirmusic.org or call 402.342.6753; ask for Renée Spicka. Entrance to all the choirs is by audition only; fall auditions are Aug. 23.