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Furman Singers make 14th European tour

Forty-eight members of the Furman Singers left Atlanta July 24 for the group's 14th European concert tour.

The two-week trip, which the Singers make every other year, took the students to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. They performed in such venues as the Kaufmannskirche in Erfurt, Germany, where Martin Luther preached; the Kreuzkirche in Dresden, Germany, where the Singers performed at vespers; and an evening concert in the beautiful Aula Leopoldina concert hall at the University of Wroclaw in Poland. The tour also featured an afternoon concert in the St. Nicolas Church of Old Town Square in Prague before concluding at the Frauenkirche in Nurnberg, Germany.

Much of the Singers program revolved around American music, such as folk hymns, spirituals, vocal jazz and barbershop selections. To honor the 250th anniversary of the death of Johann Sebastian Bach, the Singers presented portions of his motet, "Jesu, meine Freude," as well as music by Chesnokov, Haydn, Casals and Rutter.

Bingham Vick, Jr., has served as conductor of the Singers since 1970. Senior Thomas Bandy of Charleston, S.C., is accompanist.

A brief introduction

It may take a few months for this fall’s freshman class — the Class of 2004 — to establish its own identity. But the Admissions Office has compiled some “fun facts” that provide a glimpse into the interests and attitudes of the approximately 700 students who will report to campus September 5 for the start of the 2000-2001 academic year.

Some of the more noteworthy tidbits, compiled from information submitted by the students:

- The class includes 49 valedictorians, 28 class presidents, 76 Furman Scholars — and four sets of twins.
- Twenty-nine are Eagle Scouts, and 135 are listed in Who’s Who Among American High School Students.
- The class includes a number of entrepreneurs; several own their own Web page design companies, and another runs a miniature horse business.
- Politics are in some students’ blood. One has worked for Sen. John Glenn of Ohio, another for the governor of Georgia, and a third was the youngest delegate from South Carolina to this year’s Democratic National Convention.
- One student is the author of a children’s book, and another has published poetry in two different anthologies. A third has been published in a scientific journal.
- Members of the class have done mission work in Honduras, Puerto Rico, Australia, Costa Rica, South Africa, Egypt, Tanzania, France, Poland, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Belize, Haiti, the United Kingdom, and in a number of U.S. cities.
- One student has caddied in the Masters and the U.S. Open, while another has competed in the National Championships of Wakeboarding. (It’s like water skiing, except with a board.)