

Augusta chorale celebrating over three decades

Posted: Mar 01, 2015 9:27 PM EST

Updated: Mar 15, 2015 9:27 PM EDT

Written by Alexa Laz, Reporter, WAGT NBC 26

It's been 32 years since the voices of the Augusta Chorale came together for the very first time. Starting Sunday, The Lucy Craft Laney Museum downtown will have an exhibit on the chorus.

For over three decades adults in the CSRA have joined their voices together to create harmonized gospel, classical and traditional music. We sat down with many of the members and each one said how the chorale and music has deeply touched and shaped their lives.

Hettie Copeland, one of the original members since 1983, says for her and other members, it is not just about the songs and notes they sing.

"It has just helped to round me out - I have always loved music - and regardless of what ever I do - I always tried to be involved in some way or another with music," Copeland.

She says the group has a close-knit community feeling...like the notes in the songs they sing- complementing each other and working together in harmony.

"I just able to form such a beautiful relationship with all of the members, it's like another family," she adds.

The Augusta native, along with the 50 plus member chorale, have two big events during the year and practice weekly for them. The artistic director who is also a teacher at Baker Place Elementary School, says her goal is for the choir to sing at elementary schools every year to instill the value of arts and music in our youngest students.

"They need to know about this wonderful music .I let my little elementary school children here the hallelujah chorus at Christmas time they were just in awe," the director adds.

The museum is highlighting the group for the whole month of March, showcasing photos of the group over the years. Bernard McConnell loves to sing and grew up knowing about the chorale from family members once in it. He joined four years ago when he moved to our area.

"It gives you a sense of oneness. The music comes through you. And it's a certain feeling that you can't get from anything else. It's a spiritual thing," he said.