

News from the IOWC Choir in Europe - We're starting a Band

Karl Leonhardtsberger
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Photo date and location unknown

Many new developments are taking place with the IOWC choir, which has been singing in Paris in hospitals, old people's homes and churches. Through these performances, the choir has had many experiences of singing before sometimes difficult or unresponsive audiences, which is good training, and has also had many chances to testify to Sun Myung Moon directly, by announcing that he is the founder of the International Cultural Foundation by whom we are sponsored. There have also been many very rewarding responses from the people, particularly those sick and old people who seldom are given entertainment.

We have sung in some churches and always the priest has known that we are from the A.U.C.M. The congregations have been responsive, and it is only a question of time before they know in fact who we are.

Just as Rev. Moon never declared that he was the founder of the Little Angels until they were world-famous, so we should now do. We attribute the choir to the International Cultural Foundation and when it becomes famous, people will naturally want to know about the Foundation. Also, the most important point, as Mr. Leonhardtsberger explained to us, is the spiritual condition we make in singing everywhere for free, giving out to the people of France. It must move the French spirit world to help us. When people hear something beautiful that moves their hearts, they cannot accuse our movement, and they must realize our young people are better people than others.

The choir is now to establish a band, involving all members who can play an instrument. We have already purchased a high-quality amplifier. When members were asked about their talents and about any instruments they may have, many possibilities came forward.

The most exciting proposal to be carried out is a small folk singing group which will sing the folkloric songs of all the European nations. They will have guitar accompaniment, and will provide another musical aspect when the more classical or religious repertoire of the choir is not appropriate.

So often we are asked on the street, "But what do you actually do to help other people, besides giving lectures?" Music being the international language, provides a very concrete way that we can reach out and help others, being a testimony to people in hospitals or homes who have often experienced a lack of love in their families. In this way we can really give a "New Hope" to people who have lost faith and hope in today's society.