

CHURCH TO OFFER MUSIC SERIES SUNDAY SHOW TO BE BASED ON MUSICALS

By Kenneth D. MacHarg

A new concert series is being organized by the Hollywood Hills United Methodist Church to provide quality music for the south Broward community and to attract people to the church. "We wanted to develop a vehicle for community outreach and to provide a cultural resource," explained Baden Griffin, the church's music director who developed the idea for the series.

The next concert will be presented this coming Sunday, November 4, at 4 p.m. Featuring *America's Favorite Musicals*, the presentation will offer the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter from shows including *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *the Fantastics* and others. The program will feature Laura Thomas, Soprano, William Stafford, Baritone and Michael Yannette, Piano.

Griffin said that many congregations such as Coral Ridge Presbyterian and Ft. Lauderdale's First Presbyterian Church have found concert series successful over the years. "We are striving to provide quality cultural activities for people who may not want to go to the movies or other attractions filled with profanity," he explained.

The concerts also serve a social function. "We try to create a climate of hospitality by providing a free reception after each concert which provides a friendly atmosphere and serves to attract people to the church family," Griffin said.

The church's pastor, Rev. Gary E. Upleger, cautioned that the church is not using the series to recruit members. "We just want to provide a place where people can come and feel welcome," he said.

Noting that the other church-sponsored concert series serve areas of northern Broward, Griffin reported that the Hollywood Hills church is working to fill a void in such events in southern Broward communities such as Hollywood, Davie, Miramar and Pembroke Pines.

The Hollywood Hills concert series began last spring and continues with a full schedule in the coming months. Griffin said that the first concerts were of high quality and he expects the series to "step up with each performance."

Following this weekend's performance, the series will continue with a special Christmas program featuring The Masterworks Chorus of the Palm Beaches presenting *Gloria* by Vivaldi and the Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah*. That concert will be presented on Sunday, December 9 at 4 p.m.

Two concerts are scheduled for early next year: an organ recital presented by Hal Pysher on February 10 and an opera and operetta program featuring Victoria Atwater, Soprano, Bruce Reed, Tenor and Dr. Jack W. Jones, Pianist on March 3.

The concerts are held at Hollywood Hills United Methodist Church, 400 North 35th Avenue in Hollywood. Ticket prices range from \$4.00 for general admission to \$30.00 for reserved front-row seats. If available, tickets may be purchased at the door. Information and tickets may be obtained by calling 954-989-8304.

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