

Small in size but big in determination

Terra Community Choir debuts tonight in concert

By JENNIFER FERNANDEZ
Staff writer

It might be a small choir, but it is a determined one.

Only eight members of the fledgling Terra Community Choir will be performing at 7:30 tonight at a Christmas Concert and holiday music sing-a-long.

But those eight have practiced long and hard, meeting every Tuesday for two and a half hours since school began in September.

Because of its small size the choir will be doing small ensemble pieces of traditional holiday fare.

"We're limited that we can't do a lot of the large choral numbers like 'The Messiah'," said choir director Richard Repp.

Since the choir is new, getting members has been difficult, he said. There is a core group of about eight people that constantly show up for practice, but many

others have come only a few times. Most have conflicts with work schedules, he said.

It is the college's first choir, to go along with its first music department which was just created this year.

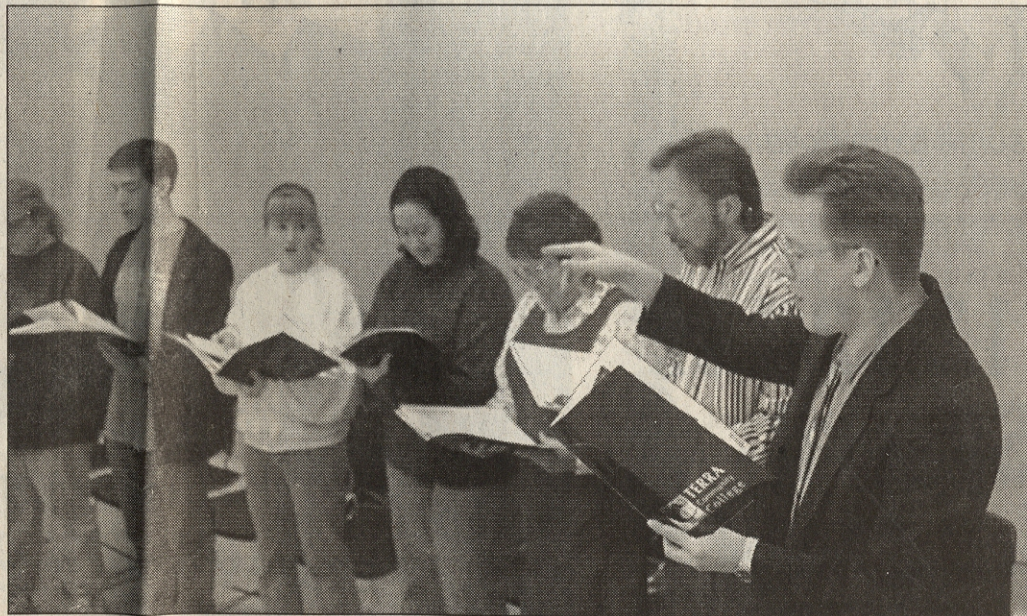
"There was very little music here before," Repp said.

He wants to change that.

"I thought any college should have a musical ensemble associated with it," Repp said. "They didn't really require I do the choir, this was something I suggested we do myself."

He hopes the choir will continue to grow, eventually allowing for two choirs. One will remain a community choir and the other will be more select. He also hopes to begin an electronic music ensemble in the spring.

Right now, there are no auditions for the choir. Anyone in the community with the



RICHARD REPP, right, directs members of Terra Community Choir at a recent practice. The choir is the first of its kind at the Fremont-based community college.

News-Messenger/Liz Margerum

desire to sing can join.

"I think it's enjoyable to sing in an organized fashion," Repp said.

The choir is a way to expand the cultural horizons at the college and also a chance to reach out to the community.

"I think we've got some-

thing now that will survive and continue to grow in the future," Repp said.

He said the choir will be turned over next year to Chris Hamady, an adjunct faculty member who teaches the music appreciation class at Terra. Hamady has a master's degree in choral con-

ducting and teaches at a Toledo school full time.

Repp was hired to begin Terra's new music technology program. He has a bachelor's degree in music and mathematics from Illinois State University and a master's degree in music for voice performance with a

If you go

Who: Terra Community College Chorus

What: Christmas Concert and holiday music sing-a-long

When: 7:30 tonight

Where: Terra Community College, General Technologies Building in the atrium

Admission: Free

concentration in music technology. He recently completed a doctoral program in music education for technology-based music instruction at the University of Illinois.

The first music technology class begins with the winter quarter which starts Jan. 4.

The class is a basic introduction to music technology such as digital-audio, multi-track recording and Musical Instrument Digital Interface sequencing

It prepares students to work in music stores and publishing and as web designers and teachers. The two-year degree also will be transferable to other colleges so students can pursue a four-year music degree.