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Chorus takes audience on a musical tour of America

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Independence Day may have come and gone, but the Statesmen Chorus still has a patriotic trick up its sleeve.

On Saturday, the chorus, along with some special guests, will perform a patriotic program titled, "A Barbershop Salute to America from Sea to Shining Sea," at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe.

Jim Hoge, longtime member of the chorus, said the group is looking forward to bringing this performance to the community.

"We celebrated our 25th anniversary two years ago," he said. "The chorus is doing good. We've added several new members and we're up to 35 in active membership.

"Our show this year is very special," he added. "We've got a quartet called Vocal Spectrum performing with us. They are hands-down the best quartet in the society today. We're really looking forward to having them."

Vocal Spectrum won the 2004 International Collegiate Quartet Contest and in 2006, the group won the International Barbershop Quartet Contest which made them the first quartet to win all three possible medals, the Collegiate Quartet, Men's Quartet and Chorus Medal.

Hoge said this salute to America will feature not only another singing group, but also the performing arts group, Stage Right.

"Several members of their troupe will perform," he said. "They are going to take us to New Orleans, Memphis, Georgia, the East coast, up to New England and over to California before coming back to Conroe.

"It's going to be a wonderful show and great for kids," he added. "You're guaranteed to have a great time."

This won't be the first time Stage Right has performed with the Statesmen Chorus and Carolyn Corsano Wong with Stage Right said she hopes it won't be the last.

"We had the Statesmen perform at intermission in our first show and it's been fun," she said. "We enjoy working with them.

"For this show, Stage Right will be performing as a tour group," she explained. "We're doing this 'America from Sea to Shining Sea' tour through songs. It's a cute story and I'm the tour guide."

Following the action from state to state through song will be fun for children and adults alike,



The quartet Vocal Spectrum is performing with The Statesmen Chorus Saturday at the Crighton Theatre in shows at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Corsano Wong said.

"It's a very tame story. It even has two little girls that are trying to help one fellow sing," she explained. "Kids will enjoy it and there are great songs about many of the states.

"With the added story, it makes the show a little more than the Statesmen just singing song after song," she said. "Families will love it."

The Statesmen Chorus, with special guests Vocal Spectrum and Stage Right will be performing "A Barbershop Salute to America from Sea to Shining Sea" Saturday from 2 to 7:30 p.m. at the Crighton Theatre, 234 Main Street in Conroe.

Tickets for the matinee performance are \$15 for regular seating or \$12 for groups of 10 or more. For the evening show, tickets are \$30 for patron seating, \$20 for regular seating and \$17 for groups of 10 or more. To order tickets, visit the Crighton box office, call (936) 441-SHOW (7469) or order online at www.crightontheatre.org. Discounted tickets for groups will not be available online.

Following the show, everyone is invited to attend a traditional Barbershop Afterglow featuring snacks, drinks, a cash bar and a chance to meet and greet the members of Vocal Spectrum. Tickets are \$10 each and the event will be held at the Conroe Tower, 300 W. Davis in Conroe.

For more information on this or upcoming Statesmen events, visit www.thestatemenchorus.org.

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