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# Faith

## Youth choir tour comes home

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Panama City's own non-denominational and independent community Christian Youth Choir, established just a year ago, will perform a Homecoming Concert at 7 p.m. Friday, at First Presbyterian Church.

The choir will return home from performing seven concerts in Texas and Louisiana, where they sang at a brain injury center in Youngsville, La., and other local churches on their journey.

The choir's "Unity Tour" program also makes visits to rescue missions and juvenile detention centers.

Nevin J. Zimmerman, director of the BCCYC, has been directing youth choirs for 17 years locally with his wife, Gigi, and feels that the idea of unity was the perfect theme for the tour because the choir is helping unite youth and adult Christians in Bay County.

This choir is made up of students from eighth- through 12th-grade with two alumni college members serving as singers and chaperones; in all there are 31 singers from more than 12 churches in Bay County.

"It is quite a testimony to have this unity even across denominational boundaries," Zimmerman said. "It is not often to see a community-wide group of adolescents to get together and have a good time with it being meaningful and enriching to their lives."

Mosley High School Choir Director Jody Schnell, who also works as choir director for First Presbyterian Church, helped open up the fellow-

Membership to be a part of this choir is open to any interested student in the area. There are no auditions; students learn through practice and instruction from the director. Community donations allow for scholarships to fund the youth on out-of-town tours. To learn more about the choir, visit [www.baycountychristianyouthchoir.com](http://www.baycountychristianyouthchoir.com) and to listen to Eric Schrottenboer's music, visit [www.ericsschrottenboer.com](http://www.ericsschrottenboer.com).

ship hall of First Presbyterian Church as the choir's grounds for practicing their vocal pieces, giving that time for the youth to fellowship together in a productive way.

The BCCYC practices once a week and is now gearing up for their first homecoming concert upon their return from the "Unity Tour." And, award-winning composer and recording artist Eric Schrottenboer will be there to lead the songs with the piano.

A new Panama City resident transplanted from Michigan, Schrottenboer has been recognized working in several music ministries where he composed music for Compassion International, Voice of the Martyrs, Campus Crusade, International Bible Society and Zondervan Publishing.

Now a local, Schrottenboer continues his ministry as a pianist and last week performed with the BCCYC for the praise and worship service during Campus OutReach's visit to Panama City Beach.

Schrottenboer has released six solo piano albums and heads his own music production business, ReCreation Studios. His experience has also led his work into the film industry, where his music was featured in more than

40 films and commercials.

His projects include Focus on the Family's "That the World May Know," a teaching series of more than 30 half-hour episodes set in the Middle East. He also produced most of the music for The Creation Museum's 54 short films and an hour-long sailing documentary, "American Sailors," which aired on WGN America nationwide last summer.

Even with this kind of background, though, Schrottenboer is quite content to be a part of this small community's Christian youth choir.

"It's a great group of kids that have great hearts, but also tons of talent and it's so cool to be a part of it," Schrottenboer said.

"How proud Bay County can be of their youth; wanting to use their gifts to help benefit people through singing and taking the time out of their summer to make this impact on the lives of other individuals."

On the night of the Homecoming Concert, the choir will be tying in Biblical narrative readings from Ephesians 4:1-6 along with a variety of songs beginning with classical style, then Americana-style hymnals and ending with more contemporary music.