

Salem Presbyterian to sponsor annual Welsh Festival of Song



Christopher Uhl

VENEDOCIA — The public is invited to attend the annual Gymanfa Ganu (Welsh Festival of Song) at the Salem Presbyterian Church in Venedocia on Sunday, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m. A light supper will be served from 4-6 p.m. preceding the event.

Director this year will be Christopher Uhl, who is a native of Van Wert and the son of Don and Faye Uhl. He is the founder and director of Musica Sacra Choir and Chamber Orchestra, now in its ninth concert season in Mobile, Ala. The ensemble, comprising a community chorus and a professional chamber orchestra, most often performs works of the 18th and 19th centuries, especially Vivaldi, Handel, Mozart and Schubert. Uhl continues as principal guest conductor of the Gulf Coast Opera in Mississippi, where last fall he led Laurence Oden's, *Mary, Queen of Scotland*. The performance received the 1995 music award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. Future collaborations include an opera gala, featuring soprano Rochelle Potter of the Vienna State Opera, and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.

Last summer, Uhl was appointed a Fellow in Orchestral Conducting at the Conductors' Institute of the University of South Carolina, and he has studied at various institutes in Cambridge, England; Geneva, Switzerland, and Rome. He received his musical training at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N.J., during which time he sang in choral performances with the New York Philharmonic and was an organ scholar at St. Thomas Church in New York City. While a student at Van Wert High School, he sang in the concert choir under L.W. Schaufelberger, studied the organ with Gloria Wendel and was the organist of First Presbyterian Church in Van Wert.

This fall, Uhl begins his second year as assistant professor of music



David Mosier

Mathematics and Science, after having served for nine years as music director of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Mobile.

The guest soloist will be David Mosier, editor of the *Van Wert Times-Bulletin* newspaper for nearly three years. He is a Van Wert County native and a graduate of Van Wert High School. He earned his college degree at Indiana University, where he was a voice performance major before changing to English.

He has been a soloist for a number of central and northwestern Ohio and northeastern Indiana music groups, including Bowling Green State University and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Some of the productions for which he has been a guest soloist include the oratorios, *Messiah* and *Israel In Egypt* and Bach's cantata, *For Unto Us A Child Is Born*.

He has also acted in a number of community theatre productions in Van Wert, Lima and London and was featured soloist for the 1995 and 1996 Peony Festival Queen Pageants.