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50 Years For Handel's "Messiah"

It's a tradition of 50 years being commemorated, as the Fine Arts Community Choir performs Handel's "Messiah" for the Easter season.

Beginning as a scholarship fundraiser-which remains in place to this very day-the performance began in 1962, at Highland Community College(Play Audio :24 seconds)

That's Leota Elder who, along with her husband Don, have been a part of the seasonal performance since early in its inception(Play Audio :20 seconds)

As she sang tenor, Don sang bass; and, through the years, the Elders have watched "The Messiah" grow, changing members, venues and directors(Play Audio :07 seconds)

The 50-member Community Choir, comprised of members from northeast Kansas, southeast Nebraska, and northwest Missouri, practices 6 weeks in advance of their annual Easter season performances(Play Audio :07 seconds)

As part of the 5-decade commemoration, the performance returns to its roots this Sunday (April 1st) as the Community Choir will perform "The Messiah" on the campus of Highland Community College, in the Culbertson Auditorium, beginning at 3:00.

Radio stations KNZA 103.9 FM and KMZA 92.1 FM are also continuing the tradition of broadcasting the Community Choir's performance, timed with Easter.

That will happen, on both stations twice: first on the evening of April 6th, Good Friday, at 6:05 and again on April 8th, Easter Sunday, at 12:15 that afternoon.