

SPRING '07

rutgers-newark

Chorus to Honor Paul Robeson in Wales

In the 1950s, Paul Robeson, determined to honor his commitment, picked up the telephone and sang to the people of Wales. He was unable to travel after the United States confiscated his passport, but unwilling to disappoint those he admired.

An alumnus of Rutgers, Robeson, artist, singer, scholar, athlete and human rights advocate, possessed a deep passion for the miners in Wales. He made several visits to the Welsh mining areas in the 1930s. And when he was prevented from joining the Miners' Eisteddfod art festival in 1957, he spoke and sang over a carefully arranged transatlantic telephone line.

This May, the Rutgers University Chorus will honor Robeson's legacy during its tour abroad in Wales by singing spirituals recorded by Robeson. "For those in our audiences who may not be aware of Robeson's history, our programs also will include a narrative on Robeson and his connection with Rutgers and Wales," says John Floreen, conductor of the chorus. Included among the locations where the chorus will be performing during its May 18-27 tour is Llandudno where Robeson performed in 1930.

Since its founding at Rutgers-Newark in 1947, the chorus has made five previous international tours: Germany and the Czech Republic in 1997, Holland in 1999, France in 2001, England in 2003, and Scotland in 2005.

A newsletter for the Rutgers-Newark community and neighbors

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