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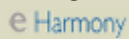
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Posted March 6, 2008

A cappella group 341 sings to glorify God

By Keith Uhlig
Wausau Daily Herald
kuhlig@wdhprint.com

The three singers in the Wausau-based gospel a cappella group 341 have performed in front of audiences ranging from one to 750.

They've sung at the Rainbow Valley Christian Music Festival in Wausau, in various churches throughout the Wausau area and at the annual Festival of Trees fundraiser for Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services.

And although Jennifer Johnson of Mosinee, Janice Grimes of Wausau and Kay Pickar of Rothschild have big goals for 341, they don't perform for money, and they certainly don't want to take their show on the road.

Their families come first, they say, and long music tours don't fit in.

Their aspirations don't fit a secular mold. The dreams are both higher and deeper. The group's name says it all: Three women for one purpose and one God.

"Our vision is to glorify God," Johnson said.

341 is Johnson's brain child. She's the organizer and the planner of the group. She has been singing since she was a kid, including in choirs and other singing groups at D.C. Everest High School. She continued to sing at her church, Highland Community Church, but her dream was to form a small singing group that specializes in Southern gospel tunes.

Johnson first met Grimes at Highland, and Grimes had the same sort of goals and ideas.

"It's always been a dream of mine to sing for a purpose," Grimes said.



Singers who make up a cappella group 341: Kay Pickar and Janice Grimes, rehearse for their performance. The show will be held at Monkey Mo Coffee in Weston. Herald Advertisement



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The trio was completed after Pickar answered an ad that Johnson had placed in the Wausau Daily Herald. It turned out that Pickar was already singing with Grimes in a Highland church production.

"I think God helped put us together," Grimes said.

That was four years ago. They've been refining their sound ever since.

The singing is just part of what they do. For them, 341 is deep and spiritual. Singing is a way of communicating their shared love of God.

"It's all spiritual," Johnson said. "Otherwise we wouldn't be doing this."

"You click, technically and emotionally," Pickar said. "And it kind of transcends."

The three felt the power when they sang for a dying woman, the mother of a friend of Johnson's, at / and Hospice Services. They also felt the power when they performed in senior assisted-care homes residents' eyes.

341 has built its reputation through word of mouth. "It's a lot bigger than what I ever expected," Grim

But she doesn't want the group to rest on its laurels.

"We need more experience. We need to get better. We need to learn more songs," she said. "We w people."

What: 341 performance
When: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Where: Monkey Mo Coffee, Ave., Suite 11, Weston
Cost: Free
Contact: 571-4346 or log on www.341trio.com

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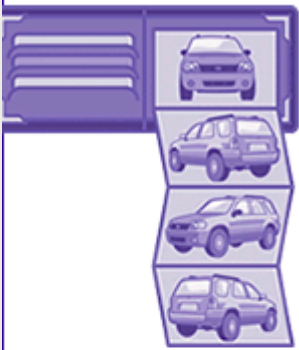
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2 3

9 10

16 17

23 24

30 31

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