Chorus and Orchestra an Island treasure

Sunday was the annual Christmas Concert by the Anna Maria Island Community Chorus and Orchestra, and, as usual, the show was a triumphant presentation of holiday classical music. Under the direction of renowned Maestro Alfred Gershfeld, the Chorus and Orchestra brilliantly performed holiday selections by Vivaldi, Mozart and Handel to a packed house at Crosspointe Fellowship in Holmes Beach. However, the day before on Saturday, AMICCO held its dress rehearsal, putting in hours and hours of hard work to make the concert the world-class success that it is. This year, The Sun was granted access to the rehearsal, and contributing photographer Marty Morrow spent the better part of Saturday morning taking pictures from just about every angle possible as the session unfolded. When it was over, Morrow, who had never heard AMICCO perform, said it was a profoundly moving experience and one that he couldn't describe in words. Fortunately, he doesn't have to because his photographs speak volumes.

- Mike Field

PHOTOS/MARTY MORROW

Above, violinist Sarah Lind (Concertmaster) plays a solo during the Anna Maria Island Community Chorus and Orchestra's dress rehearsal Saturday morning.

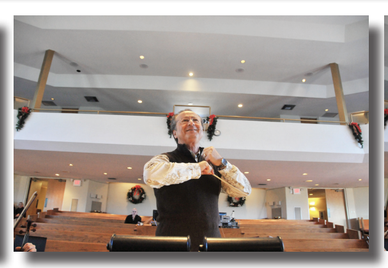
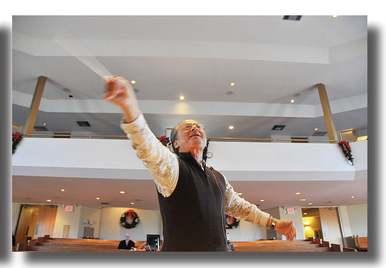
Above right, flutist Kacie Boniberger, of Bradenton, was one of five winners of AMICCO's 2009 Young Artist Solo Competition. Three of those five played Sunday during the Christmas Concert. The other two were violist Laura Gutsche, of Sarasota, far right, and violinist Kiley Arbo, near right, of Bradenton.

During the dress rehearsal Saturday, a smiling Maestro Alfred Gershfeld displayed his conducting skills in a sequence of photos, below right. Gershfeld, AMICCO's artistic director and principal conductor, is a world-renowned musician and conductor who currently is a tenured professor of conducting and director of the Orchestras at the New World School of the Arts in Miami.

SUN PHOTO/MIKE FIELD

Above, the Anna Maria Island Community Orchestra and Chorus performs its annual Christmas Concert Sunday at Crosspointe Fellowship in Holmes Beach.

At left, Maestro Alfred Gershfeld goes over some sheet music with AMICCO organist Don Bryn and oboist Leslie Jones.

Below, Gershfeld instructs violinist Sarah Lind during the rehearsal.

PHOTOS/MARTY MORROW