



Photo courtesy of Karen Vaughn

Thirty-seven members of the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus recently traveled to England and Scotland to take part in singing workshops at Doreen Rao's International Choral Music Experience Institute in St. Andrew's, Scotland.

## Chorus explores world of music

Auditions are being held for the singing group's upcoming fall season.

By **CHRISTINA SCOTT**  
Staff Writer

Because of her involvement with the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus, Valrico resident Erica Baker recently got an opportunity to travel to St. Andrew's, Scotland.

On her trip, Baker took lots of pictures to put in her scrapbook from all the places that she has traveled to with the chorus.

"It's an amazing experience to be part of this chorus," said Baker. "We have so much fun making these trips and making memories with our friends in the group."

Baker is one of 37 chorus members who recently traveled to England and Scotland to take part in music workshops at Doreen Rao's International Choral Music Experience Institute in St. Andrew's.

For Brandon resident Jessica Vaughn, 16, the chorus has exposed her to other cultures

when the group had traveled to Austria and Canada.

"Through traveling and the music theory classes we take when we learn a new song, I've learned a lot about other types of music and the history of the country where the music comes from," Vaughn said.

A chorus member for eight years, Vaughn said the vocal guidance she receives also has made her a stronger singer.

"We do all types of singing exercises to keep our voices in shape," Vaughn said.

Assistant artistic director Barbara Woellner said it is important that the singers learn all different aspects of music.

"When we approach a piece of music, we do it historically, stylistically and analyze it theoretically," said Woellner. "We also teach them the best way to use their voice and not harm themselves, as well as the nuts and bolts of reading music. This is what an choral education means."

Established in 1989, the Temple Terrace-based non-profit community chorus has performed throughout Cen-

tral Florida, Europe and North America, including a 1994 performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Money for the tours is raised through yearlong fundraisers including candy sales and individual donations, said Maria Athanasulis, the chorus' executive director.

The chorus, under the direction of Averill Summer, associate professor of music at the University of South Florida, is open to children in first through 12th grade.

Touring, which is advanced singers, and apprentice, which is intermediate, rehearse Mondays at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, 502 Druid Hills, Temple Terrace. Preparatory and pre-preparatory, which are beginner singers, rehearse Thursdays. No experience is necessary.

For more information, call Kathy Fountain at 870-9652 or Athanasulis at 988-8936, Ext. 2, or e-mail Fountain or Athanasulis at [tbccsing@aol.com](mailto:tbccsing@aol.com). The group's Web site is at [www.tbccchorus.org](http://www.tbccchorus.org).