

Choir lets area kids sing loud and proud

By **NATALIE EVERETT**

Clark County home-schooled kids and those looking for a vocal venue other than the bathtub have found a voice in the Clark County Children's Choir, a nonprofit organization put together by Holly Steed.

About 50 kids aged 5 to 14 are grouped into altos and sopranos as their director energetically addresses each group, explaining the intricacies of "Gloria In Excelsis Deo," a Catholic hymn.

"Sit up on the edge of your seats. Loud and proud," Steed said. "I can fix mistakes I can hear. I can't fix mistakes I can't hear."

Steed said she started the choir to provide a place for kids to sing and be themselves. Steed said she believes the reason there are so many behavioral problems in children today is the lack of having a place to express themselves.

Steed taught choir in high schools and middle schools and said the schools had to

To join

Parents interested in having their children join the choir can contact Holly Steed at 354-3655 or visit the Web site at clarkcountychildrenschoir.org.

constantly fight to keep the arts, including orchestra, band and choir, in school. By having a nonprofit choir outside of the school district, Steed said, it was a guarantee that the students would have a place to express themselves.

"Holly is the best person when it comes to kids," Kelli Hougland, mother of a choir member, said. "She gives them no room to mess around."

Hougland also said she is impressed by the difficulty of songs Holly picks.

"She's not just teaching them words to sing, they're learning foreign languages," Hougland said.

"This is serious music, not just sing-a-longs," Steed said.

Natalie Everett can be reached at 990-8925 or natalie.everett@hbcpub.com.