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First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

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Singing Out For Freedom

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"The basic ideals and structure of America hasn't changed; we have, you and me! Try this test. Lift your eyes to a flag, then sing out as loud as you can that old, outworn, antiquated freedom hymn you learned so many years ago; America! America!

"God shed His grace on thee! Now, if you feel a little pride welling up inside you, if you feel a little mist in your eye; then, thank God for you, mister! You're still an American!"

This is taken from "Day of Decisions," one of 23 selections in "Sing-Out for Freedom." Some of the other are "God Bless America," "I Am An American" and "This Is My Country." One part of the program will feature armed forces songs.

A 150-voice youth choir has scheduled three concerts for this month beginning tonight at 7:30 in Junior High Auditorium. Other programs are to be held Nov. 16 and 23. The presentations will last less than an hour.

The entire program has been arranged and compiled by the music department at Shelby First Baptist Church, with Van H. Ramsey, minister of music at First Baptist, as director.

The program is varied to include readings, solos, narrations and two numbers from The Generation. The singers are accompanied by a piano, guitar, bass, drums and tympany. At several points in the program, the

audience will be asked to join in.

The program grew out of a deep interest for America, Ramsey says, noting that the

program is entirely made up of old-fashioned, hand-over-the-heart American patriotism. The organization presented "Good News" last spring and the young people w

were so enthused, Ramsey said, that he felt he could not let that enthusiasm dwindle, so "Sing-Out for Freedom" was formed.

Ramsey believes the time is long over due when those who believe in American principles should stand up and show their colors. He said that this is exactly what the young people of Shelby churches try to do in these presentations. They have a message to tell and they're telling it.

There will be no general admission, but an opportunity to contribute toward expenses is given at the end of the program.

The word for cattle in Gaelic is "feah," which ultimately became the English word fee.