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First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

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### The Shelby Daily Star Oct 24 1969

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## In Soviet Union

THE SHELBY DAILY STAR, Friday, Oct. 24, 1969—7

# Ramsey To Head Concert Tour

Van Ramsey, minister of Music at Shelby's First Baptist Church, has been selected one of six men from throughout the United States to head a concert tour of the Soviet Union next August.

Ramsey will select a choir from young people throughout North Carolina to leave Aug. 1, 1970 for a ten day concert tour of Russia followed by a five-day tour of European cities. Auditions will begin in November and when the choir has been selected rehearsals will begin on a monthly basis. A full week of concentrated rehearsals will be conducted prior to departure. Following the tour a concert tour of North Carolina will begin.

Ramsey is a native of Valdese. He was graduated from Drexel High School, Mars Hill and Lenoir Rhyne Colleges and has held his present position as minister of music at Shelby's First Baptist Church for three years. In 1968 he was selected Young Man of the Year and also received a citation for meritorious service from the American Legion. He will leave Oct. 31 for a 13-day revival in St. John, New Brunswick in Ontario, Canada in cooperation with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Under Ramsey's direction, the musical groups of the First Baptist Church presents approximately 15 special programs each year in addition to out-of-town engagements. The Senior High Choir has presented concerts during the past three summers in the midwest, southeast and south, covering 15 states. In 1968 he organized a youth choir of 97 members which has now grown to an enrollment of 265 from Shelby and Cleveland County. They have performed "Good News," "Sing Out for Freedom," "Better Life" and are currently preparing for a performance of "Tell It Like It Is."

The Russian tour is sponsored by Intourist, the official agency for all travel to and from the Soviet Union. The primary object is to aid many of America's outstanding choruses and instrumental ensembles in the planning and executing of international concert tours.

Concerts will be arranged in churches, cathedrals, universities, military installations, town halls, outdoor theatres, ships, over news media and in U. S. embassies. The repertoire will consist of music from both American and Russian composers.

Ramsey's wife, Jane, will serve as accompanist for the choir. She is a graduate of Hudson High School and studied piano at Lenoir Rhyne College.



VAN RAMSEY