Chorale names first leader

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Since 1979, Chorale Acadienne has presented masterpieces of choral literature throughout the region. But this all-volunteer vocal group has done so without a full-time manager.

That has changed as Molli Davis has been hired as the first general manager for Chorale. Davis will be responsible for coordinating and maintaining a database of singers, ticket holders, donors and sponsors, among other duties.

Davis said above all, she will sing the praise of this 60-member vocal group.

"Lafayette is a really great city," Davis said. "It has lots of great culture. It has the Cajun culture that spawns a lot of tourism. But we also have such a great fine arts community. Probably 50 percent of the people here don't realize what this place is offering."

Music education and experience have been key for Davis, a Virginia native who has lived in Lafayette since age 1. Davis joined the UL Children's Choir before graduating from Comeaux High School, where she participated in show choir.

She went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in vocal performance at LSU and a master's from Southern Mississippi. Through her years in school and performance, Davis was familiar with Chorale and directors Leon Henry and James Haygood.

"I've known about the group for a very long time," Davis said. "They had been wanting to have a full-time staff member for a while. They didn't necessarily know where they would get the funding."

Davis is the fiance of Aaron Dugan, the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra's new conservatory director. They will be married Sept. 22.