Music opens up the heart and soul, bringing such joy and happiness that before they all knew it they were forming a Chorus, the “Hill Toppers.” Immediately they recruited Aurora Boliaik to be the pianist, with a music degree and a lifetime of playing. Dr. Glenn, one of the original members, was busy promoting the Chorus membership and performances. The leadership team was now complete. Next came the task of finding members. Ms. Leyndecker said she was just humming in the lobby shortly after moving in to Independence Hill when Ms. Brys over heard her and asked her to join the Chorus. Mrs. Brys explains, “I’m noisy. I look at the new resident board and if I see anyone with musical interest I call them and invite them to join. As someone who has always loved to sing, Mrs. Bloom was thrilled to find out there was a chorus and states “If you are feeling blue singing will lift you up!” Ms. Boliaik, the pianist, explains what goes on behind the scenes, “The music tells a story. I must research the music first, understand the words, the tone and meaning of the song. It is like writing a story, is it sad, happy, etc.? It must be interpreted to ensure the music is setting the right tone. The Director and I have to agree on the interpretation before rehearsals can even start. If I lose my concentration I can destroy the performance.” Summing it up, Mrs. Brys reflects, “I firmly believe that God placed me at Independence Hill to share my gift. I had no other reason to come here. It was not the closest community to my family but it put Bob Olsen in my life and opened up the world of music for me again.” She is very proud of the members and believes their dedication and commitment have made it a success. “What is most special about our Chorus are our ages. Many are in their 80’s, 3 are in their 90’s and I will also turn 90 come June. Able to sing in the Chorus at this time in our life, when they never expected to sing again, gives us a new lease on life, proving that you are never too old to enjoy the adventures of life”, Mrs. Brys adds. However not everyone has sung before, as in the case of Mrs. Dufle, who now, 3 ½ years later she is singing up a storm and making so many friends. One of which was someone who was in the same boat camp at the same time she was in the Navy. What a small world!

The 35 members of the Independence Hill Toppers Chorus, do approximately 4 performances per year centered around holiday themes where members do solos, duets, German carols, whatever moves them. The campus comes alive as everyone joins in on many of the familiar tunes. If you would like to experience a performance or just learn more about the other adventures offered at Independence Hill contact one of the Lifestyle Specialists at (210) 209-8956.

Independence Hill Retirement Resort Community is located in Stone Oak at 20450 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, TX 78258. For more information, call (210) 209-8956 or visit www.independencehill.com.

We are proud to announce Dr. Jeffrey Crowder has joined our MCOA team of doctors! He is now on most insurance plans and accepting new patients.

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