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## Eastern Vocal Group Plans Tour for USO in Caribbean Area

Eastern State News

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## SINGERS CHOSEN

# Eastern Vocal Group Plans Tour For USO In Caribbean Area

By Margie Walk

Shots, sore arms and hours of rehearsal are trademarks of the 14 students and the faculty member preparing for a four-week singing tour to U.S. military bases in the Caribbean during spring quarter.

Eastern's musical group known as the Easternaires, directed by Earl W. Boyd, chairman of the instrument department of the School of Music, will leave Charleston on March 26 to begin its tour.

All the traveling will be done by air, according to Boyd. He said the group would fly to an Air Force base in Charleston, S. C. "The Air Force will take us from there and then from one island to another," said Boyd.

The entire trip will be financed by the USO, according to Boyd.

The Easternaires will present from two to four performances each day. They will be entertaining soldiers, sailors and flyers.

### PROGRAMS

"I expect we will perform in hospitals, isolated outposts and big base theatres," Boyd said. "We are preparing for every possible type of program I can anticipate."

Popular music of various types will make up the programs which will vary in length from 15 minutes to one and a half hours.

Show tunes such as those from "Brigadoon" and "West Side Story, and popular tunes such as "Rocking Chair" and "Sentimental Journey" will be performed along

with folk songs such as "Elijah Rock" and "Black Jack Davy."

The Easternaires will also feature a barber shop quartet consisting of Jack Hoem, Wally Moon, Joe Banks and Steve Warble.

A folk song trio which is "almost a hootenanny trio" will feature Joe Banks, Steve Warble and Larry Voorhees.

Martha Van Hook will be featured with a rhythm section accompaniment.

"Any one of the group is available for solos," said Boyd.

Although he is not certain, Boyd said he thinks the first stop of the tour will be Panama. The entire schedule is arranged by Washington and USO authorities, according to Boyd.

### SCHEDULE

"A member of the USO staff will visit us at Eastern two weeks before we leave and brief us on our schedule," he said.

"I feel certain we'll go to Panama, Puerto Rico and Guantanamo Bay," he added.

Eastern is the only Illinois college selected by the USO to make the tour. Boyd said there were about 30 colleges and universities from the United States selected to tour various places overseas during 1964.

Eastern's group was chosen on the basis of a tape recording judged by the USO's National Music Council.

The Easternaires, formerly known as the Chamber Singers, is a group of 14 music majors. In previous years this group has had as many as 24 members.

"I think this group is too small," Boyd said. "I would prefer to take

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