WRC goes on wax

By MICHAEL A. KARCHMER

Threshold Staff Writer

At the beginning of the winter season, there appeared on campus a musical first—an LP recording of the Will Rice College Chorus. In effect the record is a documentary containing selections recorded “live” at Rondelet performances from the past seven years. After listening to the record it is easy to tell why the WRC Chorus has walked off with the Rondelet championship five of these years.

This is not to say that the performances are errorless. Far from the case. There are the characteristics of nearly all ambitious, amateur men’s choruses. The lower voices overbalance the outmanned tenors. One or two singers of a section often seem to dominate, thereby damaging the unity. Many of the syncopated passages of the Latin selections are somewhat labored.

Conditions Difficult

Some of the difficulties must be attributed to the conditions of the recording. Recording “live” with nonprofessional equipment over a span of seven years is not conducive to getting the highest of fidelity.

Still there is much to recommend the record. The Will Rice Chorus over the years has been characterized by a robust and genuinely exciting sound. The desire to communicate musically comes through in each of the selections on the record. The marks of good leadership are evident throughout the disc. Entrances by the various voices and cut offs are generally quite together. Intonation throughout is surprisingly good.

Cover Attractive

Some of the better performances on the record include Gabrieli’s Te Deum (excellent dynamics), Bach’s Glory and Honor Are Before Him (very exciting despite a little voice balance difficulty), and The Battle of Jericho. Some of the other offerings include the Whiffenpoof Song, Laententur Coeli, Agincourt Song, Palestrina’s Adoramus Te, and Cool Water. Only the last seemed out of place because the poorly recorded piano accompaniment detracted from the rest of the record’s selections, which were all a cappella.