

# Brevard Duo wows Big Apple

by Helyn Trickey  
Clarion Reporter

Ms. Ransom has performed in ten different countries. She won the 1985 International String Quartet Competition in Portsmouth, England. Currently, Ms. Ransom is involved in the music program at the Settlement Music School located in Philadelphia. She has studied at the University of Michigan, Yale University, and the Juilliard School.

The two musicians first met and began working together at the Highlands Chamber Music Festival. Ever since, the duo has dazzled audiences with their energetic style and musical talent.

Why would 15 Brevard College students travel 900 miles, risk their lives on the open highways, lose massive amounts of valuable sleep and endure temperatures too low for our southern minds to comprehend?

The answer: To see Brevard College's "Ensemble in Residence," comprised of BC's own Anthony Sirianni, pianist, and violinist Kate Ransom debut at Carnegie Hall, on Feb. 4.

Was it worth the trip? You bet!

The concert, which included musical pieces by Mozart and Beethoven, was sold out to an audience that delighted in the entire musical experience. Time raced by as the duo confidently performed each piece. The audience listened intently as music flooded the room. The concert ended with a standing ovation which prompted a beautiful encore from the duo.

The concert hall, decorated in shining gold and blue, played host to many Brevard College students, faculty members, and trustees. Present in the audience were President Greer and his family. Because of the enormous support that Brevard has given the duo, the two musicians chose to announce their new name — "The Brevard Duo."

One of Mr. Sirianni's students, Tim McWilliams, a Jonesboro, Ga. sophomore, was chosen to appear on stage with them to turn the pages of Mr. Sirianni's music.

Being on stage in Carnegie Hall was "exciting, but intensely emotional," says Tim, "because you have to concentrate so hard on the music." Tim admits that he was very nervous before the concert, but "Mr. Sirianni had written humorous notes on the pages of the music to help me relax."

Mr. Sirianni is an associate professor of music at Brevard College. In the past he has won first prize at the 1980 National Gershwin Competition. Also, he makes regular appearances on public radio broadcasts.



Tony Sirianni

New York Times reviewer Allan Kozinn wrote in the Monday, Feb. 6 edition that the new Brevard Duo performed "with an impassioned, beautifully regulated account of the Brahms Sonata in D minor and a suitably misty and dark-hued Debussy Sonata in G minor."

Mr. Kozin concluded, "Throughout the evening, Ms. Ransom produced a tone that was rich in the lower and middle register and thin at the top, but she shaped her violin lines with intelligence and taste. Mr. Sirianni was a consistently impressive collaborator whose sensitivity to dynamics and balance often seemed the performance's driving force."



Tony Sirianni (top right) at reception with friends and supporters from Brevard College. (Clarion photos by Helyn Trickey)



A proud President Greer congratulates Sirianni

## Students should be 'possible-ists' says bishop

by Helyn Trickey and Brian Howell  
Clarion Reporters

"Will you be part of the problem or part of the answer?" Brevard College students and faculty found themselves challenged by this question from Bishop J. Bevel Jones III at Spring Convocation Jan. 25 at Brevard College.

The Resident Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church said, "this is an age of unprecedented promise...the possibilities are there, but they are conditional, and depend on our response to our time in history."

Bishop Jones said, "We now live in a global village, a world of such unprecedented technological prowess that we now have the dubious capacity of destroying life on this earth as we know it." And he cited Winston Churchill's ironic quote: "We could bring the return of the Stone Age on the gleaming wings of science."

But it could be otherwise, the bishop assured. "I'm not a pessimist or an optimist — I'm a possibilist," he said with a chuckle.

Delivering his rousing speech peppered with humorous anecdotes to an entranced BC audience, Bishop Jones said the opportunities for true peace, or "Shalom," are available now, but may not be indefinitely.

Shalom, according to the bishop, is the place where God led Abraham to establish his chosen people, Israel. This story is analogous to the same situation facing the

present generation of young adults, implied Bishop Jones. But like Abraham, this generation must recognize and seize the opportunities that God has opened to it.

The bishop encouraged his audience to "become informed about our world," and stressed the importance of education, praising Brevard College as a "unique school with a fine faculty," and calling BC President Billy Greer "a great human being."

Bishop Jones urged the young people to "discover, develop and deploy your skills and gifts — and then find a great cause."

Praising President Bush's inaugural address as "the most understandable and pragmatic speech by a person in high power that I've ever heard," the bishop said he agreed with Bush, that "the only reason for power is to serve people" through stewardship. "A peaceful, hopeful society is ours for the taking," he said, "but those responsible must act now because there comes a time when the door is shut — the opportunity gone."

"God is capable of giving us Shalom in our time — but we must be responsible and responsive," he said. But "the issue is leadership — value-driven leadership."

Bishop Jones concluded by asking questions which demanded answers. "Will you go about life thinking the world owes you a living — or do you think you owe the world a life? And settling the responsibility of opportunity squarely on the shoulders of the pensive audience, Bishop Jones demanded, "Young people, will you respond to the challenges of you time in history?"

The bishop awaits an answer.