

# Music department stays busy

Chowan's Fine Arts Department, Division of Music, will sponsor three special events in 1985-86 as part of a busy year-long schedule involving Chowan students, area high school musicians, and the community.

This year's schedule will follow the 1984-85 events. Two 110-member All Roanoke Chowan Honors Bands representing seven area junior and senior high schools presented concerts as the climax of two-day workshops in February.

Chowan Professor of Music Bob Brown, the coordinator, said the musicians rehearsed two full days under guest conductors.

The honors bands were formed from the top band members from: Northampton East, Northampton West, Murfreesboro, Ridgecroft, Ahoskie, Bertie and Gates.

A second attraction, held in May, featured performances from five schools during the annual High School Band Festival. A highlight was a concert by the Rocky Mount Senior High School Band, considered by coordinator Bob Brown as one of the finest in the South.

The event that attracts the most high school musicians is the Marching Band Festival during Homecoming. The 1984 Festival brought 10 North Carolina and Virginia bands to Chowan Stadium with Bertie selected as Band of the Day. Oscar Smith of Chesapeake, Va. was winner of its division. This year's event is scheduled for Oct. 19.

Chowan's own musical groups, the choir



Chowan's active Division of Music assists the college group of Chowan and area high school musicians in the Helms Center. Above, Professor Bob Brown leads a

and stage band, also made a number of appearances both on and off campus. They presented joint concerts in December and at Spring Festival in McDowell Columns. The choir, directed by Dr. James Chamblee, Fine Arts Department chairman, offers a taped program of Christmas music on Dec. 25 on WITN-TV, Washington.

The Touring Choir sang at seven

churches in central and western North Carolina during its Spring Tour in May. Chamblee is the director and Mrs. Barbara Gosnell the accompanist.

The Chowan Stage Band, directed by Brown, plays at the Ahoskie Junior Miss program and at other occasions in the community and area.

During July, the Fine Arts Department, with Chamblee serving as coordinator,

sponsors the "Summer Strings on the Meberrin" music camp, the only one in the country specializing in chamber music for children and youth. This summer 32 young people participated.

The Division of Music is also active throughout the year sponsoring concerts in Daniel Recital Hall by visiting artists and music faculty members.

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