

# Special events staged in music performances

## High School Honors Band gives concert

The Fine Arts Department, Division of Music, sponsored three special events in 1984-85 as part of a busy year-long schedule involving Chowan students, area high school musicians, and the community.

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.

### Top Band Members

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

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

### Band Festival

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.

### Choir Concerts

Chowan's own musical groups, the choir and stage band, also make 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.

### Stage Band Performs

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 Meherrin" music camp, the only one in the country specializing in chamber music for children and youth.

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



Above, Professor Bob Brown leads a group of college and area high school musicians in the Helms Center.

The Fine Arts Department's Division of Music assists the college with special music and programs throughout the academic year.

## 'Strings on Meherrin' workshop held

The tenth annual Chowan College Summer Strings on the Meherrin music camp is celebrating a decade of service to young musicians with a "considerable increase in enrollment over last year."

Dr. James Chamblee, camp coordinator and chairman of Chowan's Fine Arts Department, said 32 young people, ages 10-16, and five faculty members are in attendance. Of the 32 campers, 24 are staying the full three weeks. The camp ends Aug. 3.

Adding an international flavor to the music camp are violinists Patrick Helmer of Geneva, Switzerland and Birte Kuck of Oldenburg, West Germany, who attended last year. Patrick's father is ending a year's study in the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He works for the World Health Organization helping countries solve their water pollution problems, Patrick said.

After the camp ends, Birte will spend a week in Ithaca, N.Y. visiting a friend.

Chamblee and the camp's director, Dr. Paul Topper of Greenville, said the emphasis on chamber music and techniques makes the camp unique. Topper, associate professor of stringed instruments at East Carolina University, said the students officially practice seven hours daily, Monday through

Friday. But he said they put in additional hours on their own.

Chamber music is a primary activity. All campers study and perform two chamber works each

week under daily faculty supervision, Chamblee noted.

Topper said the students devote many hours to fundamentals of technique. "Under a master

teacher, the students' technical command of their instrument is expanded by means of creatively organized group sessions" he stated.

All students participate in a string orchestra with daily rehearsals and sectionals plus faculty supervised practice periods, Topper explained. They present weekly concerts open to the public.

Chamblee pointed out that the program includes recreational opportunities in volleyball, tennis swimming and off campus activities.

Although some of the campers are as young as 10, none are beginners. Birte Kuck has been playing for 11 years. "I enjoy this music camp very much and plan to return," she noted. Patrick Helmer of Switzerland said he would like to return also. "It's a lot of fun," he declared. Two other campers are from New York and Charlotte; most are from eastern North Carolina.

"With such a concentration on playing and learning techniques, the campers flourish in their appreciation for and ability to play music. The camp is strikingly successful in building confidence, better techniques, better musicianship, and a love of chamber music in young musicians," Chamblee explained.

## College opens Aug. 22

Chowan College's faculty and staff will meet for the President's Annual Banquet Aug. 22 to begin a three-day workshop leading to the opening of the college's 138th year.

The featured speaker at the banquet is John Henley, president of the North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Raleigh.

Freshmen and transfer students will arrive Sunday, Aug. 25. They will be welcomed by President Bruce E. Whitaker in McDowell Columns Turner Auditorium at 7 p.m. Meetings with faculty advisers will follow.

Returning students will meet with their advisers on Monday as freshmen continue their orientation.

Registration is scheduled for Tuesday in Marks Hall with classes beginning Wednesday, Aug. 28.

Convocation is Monday, Sept. 2 in the Helms Center. Other fall semester special events include Founders Day, Oct. 9; Homecoming and Fall Festival of Marching Bands, Oct. 19; Parent's Day, Nov. 2; Campus Evangelism Week, Nov. 4-8. Thanksgiving holidays will be Nov. 26 to Dec. 2.

Final exams will be given Dec. 13-19 followed by Christmas holidays. The spring semester will open Jan. 15.