

Adrian Scott

Singers set high standard

"Be a part of the great Carolina choral tradition" say the posters. The North Carolina Chamber Singers are the ultimate product of this tradition, both of its performing and of its teaching aspects.

The high standard they attained in their concert last Friday was not one of clinical precision and technical perfection; there were a few shaky moments in that respect. But in their expression and sensitivity to the music they displayed a verve and polish that can only come from the best ensembles.

The concert began with Josquin's "Ave Maria", a tricky piece with which to start, since it is slow; when you are starting cold it is so much easier to begin with a fast, loud, rousing number that will draw the audiences attention and hold it. The "Ave Maria" requires restrained, careful singing; it received it, and more. What I found particularly impressive was the choir's treatment of the beginnings and ends of phrases—the tapering and shading at the end of the piece was magnificent.

If they were listening to each other, they were not, however, listening to the harpsichord, which was used in Bach's "Lobet den Herren". Here there was an unfortunate tendency for the choir to go sharp. The harpsichord is not a loud instrument, and obviously it could not make itself heard to the singers. Perhaps it would have been better to dispense with it entirely, since the choir seemed perfectly confident in the last movement, when it wasn't used; it spoiled an otherwise good performance.

From here, the group broke into smaller units to sing some Elizabethan part-songs. These were not as effective as they might have been. This particular ensemble is an ensemble of soloists, and there was slightly too much of the individual and not enough of the group in these songs. The problem was not so much one of phrasing or expression, which was good, but of vocal tone. When all the singers employ a vibrato the tone tends to be too thick and muddy for the transparent texture which so characterizes the style of Byrd and

Morley and their contemporaries. "Fair Phyllis", though, sung by a quartet, was absolute perfection.

If solo vocal tone was a drawback in the Elizabethan music, it proved indispensable in the magnum opus of the evening, Brahms' "Neue Liebeslieder". Here the choir came into its own, and delivered a superb performance. There was a feeling of confidence and ease that had not up to then been present. The sound was full and vibrant, and the solos with which the piece is interspersed were executed with great ability. Out of twelve singers, seven took solos, in itself an indication of versatility; this was evocative singing, with exquisite ensemble and sensitive rubato, two qualities which do not often go together. The changes of mood which the words and music required were executed with ease and grace... it was a masterly rendition.

After the intermission, the style changed completely, and the choir sang pieces by Samuel Barber, William Schumann, and Jack Jarrett. Barber's

"Reincarnations" consists of two love songs and a lament, all with a vaguely Irish feeling to the words. It is powerful music, and difficult to sing, but it was brought off admirably, especially "The Coolin", a sweet and simple love-song with rolling rhythms, close harmony, and distinct roots in folk-music.

William Schumann's "Carols of Death" are at once supremely sinister and strangely consoling. There is pungent and unexpected imagery in Walt Whitman's poetry:

"In the day, in the night, to all, to each,
Sooner or later, delicate death."

The setting changes from being harsh and staccato, with sudden changes in tempo and dynamics, to being smooth, serene and seamless.

The last item on the programme was "The Cuckoo's Cry", by Jack Jarrett, who is composer-in-residence at UNCG. This is a modern setting of six Elizabethan madrigals. I found the piece interesting and well constructed, with a distinct regard for the original. Although the harmonic structure was firmly 20th Century, the dotted rhythms and the delicate interplay of parts were distinctly influenced by the style and traditions of the 1500s.

This concert conformed entirely with the high standards of choral music at this University, and sprang from the traditions that have been established here. Robert Allen, founder and director of the group, is a graduate of the Choral Arts program; he and several other members of the ensemble have sung with the Carolina Choir. Others have studied at Greensboro. Now for the first time, our singers and standards are going overseas. Everyone wishes them luck, though I don't think they'll need it.

Carr reviews

TV brings religion

Except for a baseball game tonight, the final week of television's summer rerun season has very little to recommend it other than a heavy overdose of evangelism.

The game tonight features the San Francisco Giants against the Los Angeles Dodgers, starting at 8 on Channel 11.

The week's four hours of hard-sell Christianity get underway Tuesday at 7:30, with Billy Graham sponsoring his Northern California Crusade. Channels 5 and 8 will carry the Crusade Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday night, with special appearances by Roy Rogers and Dale Evans highlighting the Wednesday hour.

Oral Roberts, meanwhile, will counterprogram with a special he made in Hawaii with Govs. David Hall of Oklahoma and John Burns of Hawaii. Don Ho and the Surfers will also be on hand to sing "America, the Beautiful." This extravaganza can be seen on Channel 2 at 8 Thursday night, or at 9 Friday night on Channel 5.

Tonight Channels 5 and 8 will show an evening-long network double feature. The first movie, "Blast-Off," is a 1967 comedy fiasco, while the second film, "Marilyn," is a 1963 documentary on the films of the late Marilyn Monroe.

An hour-long version of Charles Kuralt's "On the Road," is slated for 10 Tuesday night on Channel 2.

At 8 Wednesday night Channels 2 and 11 will show an hour-long drug special, "If You Turn On," that was originally done as a local feature in Los Angeles. That night at 8:30 Channel 4 will present the Sir Douglas Quintet, on the NET rock music series "Boboquivari."

Television opens its coverage of the Miss America Pageant Thursday night with an hour-long film of the Miss America Parade, which will be held tomorrow. The show will be carried by Channel 11 beginning at 8:30, with the finals of the pageant slated for Saturday night. Later that night Channel 11 will show a rebroadcast of a Harry Belafonte-Julie Andrews singing special that was originally shown in 1969.

Southern author Robert Penn Warren appears on "Speaking Freely," at 7:30 Friday night on Channel 4.

The late-night local movies are uniformly wretched this week, but Orson Welles should be interesting as Dick Cavett's replacement for the week. Johnny Carson is also on vacation, and Della Reese will sit in for him. Merv Griffin is, as always, Merv Griffin.

For Playmakers

Season tickets on sale

The Carolina Playmakers open their season ticket subscription today.

Two coupon books are available for the public and for UNC students. Coupon books for all seven productions are priced at \$10.50 for the public and \$9 for UNC students. An alternate season plan, good for four productions, provides coupon books costing \$7.50 for the public and \$6 for students.

The latter plan includes presentations of Aristophanes' great comedy, "The Birds," Tom Stoppard's highly touted and well-awarded "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," Georges Feydeau's mockery of French bourgeoisie, "A Flea in Her Ear," and the anti-militaristic "Pantagleize."

The full season plan provides coupons to the above plays and three more: the multi-media production concerned with the population crisis and survival, "Amanita: The Death Angel"; Dale Wasserman's zany and wild insane asylum play, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"; and the Goldoni's slapstick adventure, "The Servant of Two Masters."

"The Birds" will be presented in the outdoor amphitheatre, The Forest Theatre, while "Amanita," "A Flea,"

"Cuckoo's Nest," and "Pantagleize" will be produced in the Graham Memorial Lounge Theatre. All other productions are scheduled for Playmakers Theatre.

October brings "The Birds" and the electronic extravaganza, "Amanita," while November opens with "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern."

Second semester features the Feydeau

farce, "A Flea in Her Ear," followed by "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," the Goldoni play, and "Pantagleize." Curtain for all performances is 8 p.m.

Season ticket books may be purchased at the Playmakers Business Office in Graham Memorial or at Ledbetter-Pickard's in downtown Chapel Hill.

This Week's Feature
Books on
Hunting and Outdoor Sports

Here is the collection of a distinguished Chapel Hill sportsman. Many good books on choice of guns, and on the joys of the field, mostly at moderate prices.

The Old Book Corner
137 A East Franklin Street
Opposite Town Parking Area
Chapel Hill

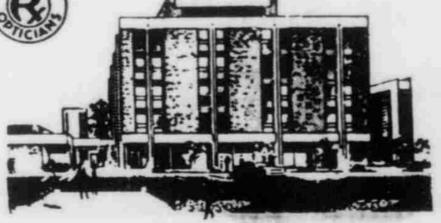


UNIVERSITY OPTICIANS

J. Paul Moore Reg. Licensed
Don L. Register Opticians
968-8818

Prescriptions Filled
Lenses Duplicated - Sunglasses
Contact Lenses Accessories

VISIT OUR BEAUTIFUL LOCATION IN UNIVERSITY SQUARE

Northwestern Mutual Life Ins. Bldg.




AT
Eastgate Shopping Center

Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner

7 Days a week
Open 7 - 9

specializing in
COUNTRY HAM
for
\$2.50 (ALL YOU CAN EAT)
\$1.59 regular dinner—anything other than ham

Make your own Salad at the Salad Bar
HOMEMADE PIES
BOTH MEALS INCLUDE TEA or COFFEE

5 HAM or SAUSAGE BISCUITS FOR ONLY \$1.00

water beds are more than mere bags of water
COME SEE FOR YOURSELF



THE EXPERIMENT
NEW DIMENSIONS IN RELAXATION

113 N. COLUMBIA, CHAPEL HILL
ABOVE THE NEW TROY'S 967-6602
OPEN 10 A.M. TO 9 P.M., 10 TO 6 SATURDAYS

UL APPROVED HEATERS
BEDS WHICH MEET UNC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS
PRICES START AT \$25.00
TWIN OAK HAMMOCKS

try one - it can't hurt!

How, when, and where
can you get
free checking?

Three ways, anytime,
at any Wachovia office.

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation