

Symphony opening concert 'outstanding'

By JIM GILES
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Symphony opened its 53rd Chapel Hill season Sunday with a concert in Memorial Hall. Aaron Copeland's *Orchestral Variations* was the first piece of the afternoon. The 1957 version of the *Variations* is actually Copeland's own transcription of his *Piano Variations* which was composed in 1930. These variations are not representative of the composer's nationalistic pieces (i.e. his ballet suites), which have become so popular. In fact, the work comes close to Schoenberg's principles of the "serial" technique, even though it never relin-

music

quishes the principle of tonality. Conductor Gerhardt Zimmermann elicited clean attacks and appropriately percussive playing from the orchestra, which executed the complex rhythms very well. Kristen Merscher, a young German pianist, then joined the symphony in a performance of Schumann's *Piano Concerto*. Schumann's warmly romantic score remains consistently popular with performers and audiences alike.

The music is poetic and capricious but contains no unnecessary notes included merely for virtuosic display. Merscher proved herself capable of coaxing a singing tone from her instrument. The last movement contains some intricate passage work and lacy arpeggios, which she handled with ease with her independent finger technique. Merscher employed the pedal sparingly in the outer movements while maintaining a legato style in appropriate places. After intermission, the orchestra rounded out the program with an inspired rendition of Jean Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*. Most critics agree

that this is not the best of Sibelius' symphonies, but audiences have been most partial to it. From the pastoral character of the first movement to the final statement of the "big tune" in the finale, Zimmermann was in full control of his forces. The scherzo displayed the orchestra's virtuosity and distinctly contrasted with the lyrical Trio. Zimmermann was successful in creating effective crescendos and just the right amount of rubato. The overpowering impact of this symphony was skillfully conveyed right through the towering coda, a monumental ending to an outstanding concert.

Jazz concert in Hill Hall

By IAN WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

If you're tired of the same old trash on the radio but still want to put a little musical spice in your week, then tonight's concert may be for you. The UNC Jazz Band, under the direction of James Ketch, will perform tonight in Hill Hall Auditorium at 8:00. The band, consisting of five saxophones, five trumpets, five trombones, and an assortment of rhythm instruments, is a credit

course here at the University. Auditions are tough, but saxophonist Everett Britt says, "It's worth it. We have a great time in there." Featured in tonight's program are works by Sammy Nestico, McCoy Turner, and Billy Strayhorn, as well as others. Everett, a junior from Lumberton, thinks it will be a good performance. "It'll be a hot show — the material we're doing is pretty cool." The Jazz Band concert is free and open to the public.

Ensemble goes for 'unvarnished' versions

By ELIZABETH ELLEN
Arts Editor

The search for authenticity is a common quest among artists in various media. The Academy of Ancient Music Chamber Ensemble, which will perform tonight in Memorial Hall, is at the forefront of the search in the field of music. As the Ensemble's director Christopher Hogwood said: "The philosophy is precisely the same as the one that leads museums to clean 18th century paintings and put them in the right frames. We like to see our pictures of music clean — without layers of 19th century varnish." The Ensemble uses period technique and reproductions of period instruments to "clean up" music of the pre-Romantic era. Performers produce sounds which are foreign to modern ears but true to the composers' intentions by using instruments such as wooden flutes, harpsichords, and violins with gut strings and straight bows. The Ensemble was founded by Hogwood in 1980 in England. Since then, the group has made a name for itself on vinyl as well as in live performances.

Tonight's performance, the opening event of the Carolina Union's Carolina Concerts series, will feature works by George Frederic Handel (1685-1759) and Antonio Vivaldi (1675-1741) and a mysterious piece attributed to a member of the Bach family. The first Handel piece is *The Alchemist*, a suite of movements used in English playwright Ben Jonson's comedy of the same name. Two Handel works featuring a bass soloist, *Cantata No. 20* "Spande ancor a mio dispetto" and

Cantata No. 11 "Cuopre tal volta il cielo," come later in the program. The two Vivaldi pieces show off the special qualities of the wooden flute. The Ensemble will perform *Concerto No. 3 in D major* and *Concerto No. 6 in G major*. The last piece on the program, *Suite V in G minor*, was discovered in a set of manuscripts owned by Wilhelm Friedmann Bach, one of the sons of the German Baroque composer Johann

Sebastian Bach. Although scholars feel sure that J.S. Bach did not compose the work, they cannot pinpoint the exact composer. As evidenced by the popular success of groups like the Ensemble, many music lovers enjoy the "unvarnished" versions of old favorites that allow their original beauty to flow through. Call 962-1449 for tickets to the 8 p.m. show tonight in Memorial Hall.

Boyfriend against male shows

By STEVE AUSTIN
Syndicated Columnist

Dear Steven: Why do all the girls carry on over the male stripper shows? Those guys are a bunch of studs interested in one thing. It's different when men go to topless bars and strip shows. The average guy knows he doesn't have a chance with those dancers. But the males dancers will sack with anything that wiggles. Do you think I should prevent my girlfriend from wasting her time and money at those dumb spectacles?

straight up

— Dave, Winston Salem

Dear Jealous: Why do you have to be such a jerk? With a brain like yours to contend with I'm surprised she hangs around your space at all. Copyright 1985 by Steven J. Austin. Got a problem, question or comment? Write to Steven the Bartender in care of the DTH.

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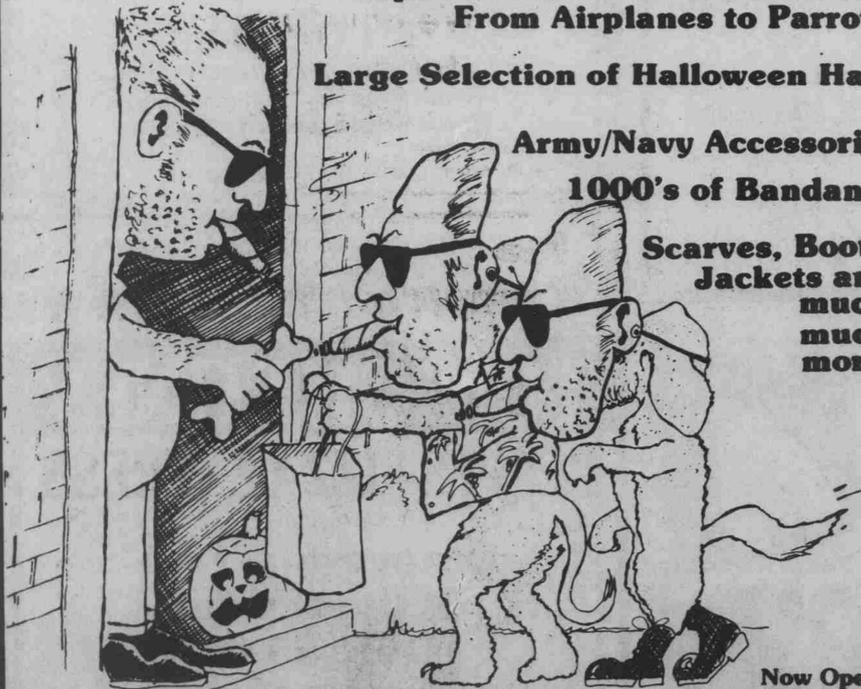
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