

Carolina Choir lends voice to concerts

By ELIZABETH ELLEN
Arts Editor

Distinguished soloists, a professional symphony and major works by celebrated but misunderstood composers are elements which often combine to make memorable concerts. The participation of over 100 amateur and student singers, however, should add another dimension to the musical venture planned for this weekend in the Triangle. The North Carolina Symphony will be joined by the Carolina Choir, the Durham Civic Choral Society, and vocalists Maureen Forrester and Penelope Jensen in three performances of Ravel's *Sheherazade* and Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*.

The first of the three concerts was last night in Raleigh. The groups will perform the same program tonight in Durham and on Sunday afternoon in Memorial Hall.

The Carolina Choir's contribution to the program comes in the fifth and final movement of the *Resurrection Symphony*. Entering the performance in its final moments is something of an obstacle, according to director Larry Cook. "It is difficult to get in and sing after sitting an hour and a half," he said.

However, Cook, also the director of the Durham Civic Choral Society, feels that participation in the concerts provides special opportunities for the singers. "Association with top-quality professional musicians is performing in the major leagues musically," he said. "There is much incentive to do your best, and the fact that we get to do it more than once creates the challenge to make it fresh and vital every time. If we only had one chance to do it, we would have no opportunity to explore the room for improvement."

Carolina Choir President Jenny Ferguson, a senior from Charlotte, cites



The Carolina Choir practicing in Person Hall for upcoming concerts with the North Carolina Symphony and others

the opportunity to sing with the Durham group as another advantage of participating in the concerts. "It is interesting to sing with older voices and to be a part of such a large group of singers," she said.

Both Cook and Ferguson call the soloists, contralto Maureen Forrester and soprano Penelope Jensen, "out-

standing." Considered an expert interpreter of Mahler and one of the foremost contraltos in the world, Forrester has performed with numerous symphonies and sang solos from the *Resurrection Symphony* in her first appearance at Carnegie Hall. Forrester will sing solos in both works.

Penelope Jensen, a Chapel Hill

resident, is a nationally-known soprano and has performed with The Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra, among others. Her Carnegie Hall concert was hailed by *New York Times* critics as "sensitive" and "distinguished."

Resurrection Symphony is the first Mahler work to be performed by the

Carolina Choir, said Cook. The German text does not present as much of a challenge to the group as does the unusual vocal range and texture of the music. "The piece is very thick and starts off softly and extremely low," said Cook. Especially difficult is a low B flat for the basses, which is below normal range. "Mahler indicated in the score that it really doesn't matter if this note is heard but that it must be sung as written and not transposed to a higher octave," he said.

Cook said the choir has been rehearsing the Mahler off and on for most of the semester. Other projects, such as the choir's performance this Sunday morning in Duke Chapel, have kept the group from focusing entirely on the *Resurrection Symphony*. "We get to do a wide variety of things," said Ferguson. She sees the Duke Chapel performance as another great experience. "To sing in a room where sound reverberates several seconds after you sing is marvelous," she said.

The Carolina Choir has performed with the North Carolina Symphony in previous years. Apparently, the collaboration is a satisfying one for the student vocalists. "To sing with Gerhardt Zimmermann (director of the N.C. Symphony) and a world-class soloist like Maureen Forrester adds so much to what we do," said Ferguson. "It broadens our perspective a little bit."

The North Carolina Symphony will perform with the Carolina Choir, the Durham Civic Choral Society, and soloists Maureen Forrester and Penelope Jensen (and a cast of thousands) tonight at 8:15 p.m. in Page Auditorium at Duke and Sunday at 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Call 962-1449 for ticket information for the Chapel Hill performance.

Chicago MBA co-op gives a leg up in the job market

By SONYA TERRELL
Special to the DTH

MBA students at the University of Illinois at Chicago have an advantage over other MBA students, said Fred McLimore, director of the program.

UIC offers a co-operative education program for its MBA students that provides them with practical work experience and places them in jobs without going through a corporate indoctrination period, McLimore said. The program is one of the first of its kind in the nation.

"We feel this is an opportunity to get experience and earn money," he said, adding that students in the program were usually paid between \$1,600 to \$2,500 per month by their employers during their work assignments.

The co-op program may work for UIC, but the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's MBA program does not consider it necessary to provide work experience for students during their MBA educations, said Mark Eaker, director of UNC's MBA program.

The Research Triangle has sufficient industry to support a small co-op program if that was what the business

school wanted to do, Eaker said. However that's not the type of program UNC has, he said.

The UNC program expects students to have significant work experience prior to entering MBA school, Eaker said.

"We're happy with the requirements we have," he said. "We are able to attract the caliber of students we need."

Mike Hostetler, director of admissions at the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, disagreed with Eaker saying the Research Triangle may not be large enough for a co-op program.

"One reason the co-op program works at UIC is because Chicago is a large metropolitan area with a high demand of businesses needing students," Hostetler said.

Although it's not a negative aspect, Research Triangle does not have the critical mass Chicago has, he said.

UNC's MBA program accepts very few students directly after graduation, Eaker said, adding that only about 10 percent of its students had entered the program without work experience.

Most of UNC's MBA students with

work experience had worked for about four years, he said.

Work experience is not a prerequisite for admission into the Fuqua School of Business, Hostetler said. More than 60 percent of the students in its school, however, have had more than two years of work experience, he added.

Students in the Fuqua School of Business are encouraged to obtain internships during the summer. Last year, all MBA students who wanted internships received them, Hostetler said.

Two career counselors at the UNC Business School work with students in their job search process, Eaker said. "Usually 90 percent (of the students) have jobs by graduation," he said.

Whether the MBA co-op program is advantageous is still a debatable issue.

The program at UIC, however, has placed a high percentage of its students in full-time jobs at the companies they worked for while in the MBA program.

"We can't believe it," McLimore said. "Over 90 percent, almost 95 percent, of the students in the co-op program have been offered full-time jobs with the company they worked for. And over 85 percent have accepted."

Hostetler said the placement rate of MBA students at the Fuqua School of Business was about 95 percent.

UIC's co-op program takes about two years to complete — six months of classroom followed by six months of employment — until the usual eight quarters are completed, McLimore said.

Hostetler said the basic benefits for students in the co-op program were the

students' ability to finance their MBA education and the possibility that the job obtained during that education could lead to a full-time position in the same company.

McLimore said the co-op program could also be rewarding for the individual with several years of corporate experience.

A student with work experience can easily change fields without having to start out at ground level again because the co-op program provides the needed experience while an MBA is being earned, he said.

Participating companies benefit from the co-op program in several ways, McLimore said, adding that companies had a chance to preview potential management employees without a lot of risk or financial commitment.

Celebration to mix music with worship

By DENISE SMITHERMAN
Staff Writer

There will be singing, performing and preaching.

People from across the state will attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration Convocation of the N.C. Council of Churches 4 p.m. Sunday at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1210 Eugene Street, Greensboro.

Council membership includes 26 N.C. denominational bodies and conventions and seven congregations in the Raleigh-Durham area.

The organization was formed 50 years ago "to express and lift up examples of Christian unity among churches," said Sister Evelyn Mattern, N.C. Council of Churches program associate. It also, she said, "provides a vehicle for specific projects."

The council's first year included a celebration of the first English Bible translation and a Peace and Brotherhood Sunday. Sunday's convocation theme is God's Instrument for Unity, Justice and Peace: 50 Years, Mattern said. Dr. Eugene Owens, pastor of Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, will deliver a sermon, and the Greensboro Oratorio Society and the Band of First Moravian Church will perform.

"We think it's an honor to be asked to participate in this service," said Sue Kiorpes, band director. She said the band, which has a flute, clarinet, baritone horn, trombone and tuba, will play Thanksgiving chorales (Moravian hymns) and traditional Moravian tunes.

"Most people are not used to hearing a band play during a church service," Kiorpes said. "Bands are not the usual in Protestant churches."

The Greensboro Oratorio Society has 60 members and was founded in 1951. Director Donald Trexler said the anniversary service "should be a nice experience, musically."

The oratorio will sing anthems, "The Last Words of David" by Randall Thompson and Beethoven's "Mount of Olives Halleluiah Chorus."

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