

Musicians' group focuses on Baroque interpretations

By RICHARD SMITH
Staff Writer

The Society for Performance on Original Instruments opens its fifth season tonight with a concert featuring works by the composers Corelli, Geminiani, Bach and Handel. The season will continue with four more gala concerts drawing music from 17th, 18th and early 19th century repertoire.

Richard Luby, one of the society's two artistic directors, explained what the society was about. "We are a repertory group of local professionals particularly dedicated to performing music in the style that it was originally perceived," he said. Luby, a member of the music faculty, doesn't think that there is anything particularly revolutionary about this approach, but added, "You cannot compare the commitment, insight and skill of the world's greatest orchestras in their performance of, say, Brahms and Mahler, to their approach to Baroque." The music of Handel and Corelli, said Luby, is more problematic and more richly detailed. "Their works are rhetorical statements, very detailed, like speech."

Luby will be playing on a 1623 Amati, a violin restored locally by John Pringle. There is an obvious difference of size when the Baroque violin is compared to the modern; the Baroque is thinner, though actually not much shorter. But Luby said the differences are much greater than

that. There is less tension in the older violin, the pitch is lower and the bow is more slight.

Baroque composers were keen on effects and emotions, Luby said, and the music followed the Aristotelian argumentative style, developing the simple meaning of a text. Musically this means the use of counterpoint, light and shade, repetition on different registers. The use of period instruments enables this rhetorical, contrapuntal argument to be etched out with maximum flourish and expression. It was during the Baroque period that the present diatonic and tonal systems of scales were first set down, allowing for music of great scope.

Luby played a passage of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 on both Baroque and modern violins to demonstrate what he meant. The period instrument was so expressive that the modern violin with its larger bow and high pitch sounded almost too brilliant, too powerful. With the modern violin, said Luby, everything gets linked. "You get the big, romantic picture," he said. Luby's Baroque instrument gave a much more rich and colorful interpretation to the piece, the difference between loud and soft, smooth and rough, light and dark being more marked, though he admitted that he was emphasizing to make his point. Even so, he explained, there is no single, particular sound for Baroque music, which

leaves interpretation very much up to the performer.

The Triangle is something of a center for original instrument performers. Luby attributed this fact to the presence of the music departments at Duke and UNC and their respective interests in musicology. Where there is a strong interest in music periods and their different styles, explained Luby, there will be an interest in recreating those styles.

The Baroque concerto grosso form of music is being highlighted in tonight and Saturday's concerts. Corelli was the father of the style and, Luby said, "provided the way for the individual to come out, to differentiate from the ensemble." Until that time, a soloist had played completely on his own. Corelli originated the idea that there could be both: soloists within an ensemble. "Corelli showed a progressive mastery of the new key system and was extremely popular," he said. "His harmonies are sweet and very rich."

The music of Handel is to be particularly spotlighted on the programs, Luby said, because "his instrumental music is not really encountered that much, yet his concerti grossi are among the finest." Handel is famous for being "the German who wrote Italian music for the English," Luby said. "His music reflects all these styles." Also featured will be Geminiani (a much-studied student of Corelli's) and Bach.

The soloists in the society's 12-strong group include flutist Michael Lynn, violinists Richard Luby and Ruth Johnsen, violist Ann Woodward, and cellist Brent Wissick. Making his debut with the society is harpsichordist Richard Hill, an internationally renowned musician who is strongly identified with the works of Bach.

Technical knowledge of Baroque



DTH/Matt Plyler

Members of the Society for Performance on Original Instruments rehearse in the Hill Hall auditorium

music is not a prerequisite to enjoying society performances. "The music is extremely accessible, and audiences seem to like it," Luby said. "At the same time it is very sophisticated and certainly challenging artistically."

The Society for Performance on Original Instruments will perform tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. in Hill Hall Auditorium. Call 962-1039 for ticket information.

Campus Calendar

Friday

- 9 a.m. Delta Zeta Sorority will hold interviews in 210, 211, and 226 Union until 5 p.m.
- 12 p.m. Study Abroad Office will have Mr Michael Roberts from the University of E. Anhlia, until 2 p.m. to talk to students. He also represents Beaver College Programs in England.
- 4 p.m. The Association of English Majors will sponsor a student/faculty mixer in the picnic area of Old Forest Theatre for students to meet and talk with faculty.
- 9:30 p.m. CGLA will hold its Halloween Dance/Party. Call 962-4401 for info.

Saturday

- 8 p.m. Carolina Baptist Student Union will have a Halloween Party at 203 Battle Lane. All are invited.

Sunday

- 11 a.m. UNC Gaming Club will meet in Union 218 for Open Gaming until 5 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. Black Women United

- 7 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services will sponsor a presentation by Dataflow Companies in the North Parlor at the Carolina Inn.
- 10 p.m. STV will air on Channel 11 Village Cable and at Pizza Hut.

Items of Interest

Appointment sheets for English majors to pre-register with their advisors are posted on the bulletin board opposite 212 Greenlaw.

Chapel Hill League for Safe Bicycling will meet Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Chapel Hill Town Hall. All interested students may attend.

Health Professions Advising Office is offering workshops to help pre-health students interview for professional schools. See bulletin board at the office on 2nd floor Steele Bldg.

WXYC Radio FM 89.3 will sponsor a day of programming that could change the way you look at the world. Call 962-8989.

The 6th Annual Carrboro 10K Race will be held on Nov. 1 at Carr Mill Mall at 2 p.m. The fee is \$8 for preregistration and \$9 on race day. Runners will receive a T-shirt. Entry forms are available at Steve Friedman's Pro Shop.

Halloween Party

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
5:00 - 8:30 PM

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