



The Carolina Choir, under the direction of Susan Klebanow, performs in Person Recital Hall

## N.C. Symphony concert to include Carolina Choir

By LAURA FRANCIS  
Staff Writer

The Carolina Choir will travel to N.C. State University this weekend to perform Mahler's 8th Symphony along with nine other choruses and the N.C. Symphony, according to Susan Klebanow, Carolina Choir director and choral activities chairman.

The concert, which is sponsored by N.C. State's Friends of the College concert series, will feature director Gerhardt Zimmermann, Klebanow said.

The choir is enthusiastic about the upcoming performance, according to Jim Anderson, president of the group. "It's very rare you get to do a really big work with a full orchestra," he said. "It's a big event for the University choir and the greatest since I've been here."

The group has been practicing for

the last four weeks and has seen positive results in the last couple of rehearsals, Anderson said.

"It's an ambitious project, and if it all pulls together, it's going to be a great concert — quite an event," he said.

The choir will perform with other choirs from all over the state, including Burlington boys' choirs and groups from the UNC-Greensboro, Raleigh and Meredith College.

Klebanow said the Carolina Choir is "a select concert choir of 50 singers. They sing a wide range of music in the course of a year — from a cappella literature of all periods to orchestral masterworks." The group recently completed a four-day tour to high schools, community colleges and churches throughout the state.

Auditions for all music department choral ensembles (Carolina Choir, Chamber Singers and Men's and

Women's Glee Clubs) are held the first week of every semester and are open to all, according to Klebanow.

Anderson said: "I'd encourage anyone interested in music to audition. It's a lot like a big family. There's a lot of great music, and you work with a great conductor."

The choir will perform at NCSU this Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. Contact Friends of the College at 737-2835 for ticket information. "It's going to be quite a production and shouldn't be missed," Anderson said.

The choir will also perform the Faure Requiem with full orchestra for its April 15 concert in Hill Hall, Klebanow said. The concert will feature the UNC Chamber Singers performing French music from several centuries. Ticket proceeds (at \$5 per ticket) will go toward the music department scholarship fund.

## Fine Arts Festival to offer Connells' homecoming

By JULIE OLSON  
Staff Writer

Saturday night at 9 p.m., Memorial Hall will rock with the sounds of Raleigh's own Connells, in their first appearance in the Triangle area since last September. The concert will be a showcase of the band's latest album *Fun and Games*, which was slated for release late last week.

The Connells' concert, sponsored by the Carolina Union Activities Board, is a part of the Fine Arts Festival's "Flashback: the '60s." The '60s and the Connells, you say? What gives?

Though often compared to the guitar-oriented, southern pop of R.E.M. and the melancholic melodies of Morrissey and the Smiths, the Connells actually draw much of their musical charm from the jangly sounds of the 1960s British pop invaders — with the same lightness and freshness of pre-Acid Beatles.

Of course, the Connells do clearly have roots in the home-grown world of Carolina pop music. Their first album, *Darker Days*, was partially produced by North Carolinian Don Dixon, and album number two, the college radio fave *Boylan Heights*, is not only the name of a Raleigh suburb, but was produced by the omnipresent Mitch Easter himself.

The band was formed in 1984 by songwriter/guitarist Michael Connell and his bass-playing younger brother David while they were at UNC. In fact, Michael is a graduate of the law school, so he's not just another head-banging rocker (although he may be a rocking Juris Doctorate). The quintet is rounded out by lead vocalist Doug MacMillan, guitarist George Huntley and drummer Peele Wimberley.

The Connells weave a deep and rich musical background which is complemented by subtle yet intense lyrical imagery. From *Boylan Heights*, in the song "I Suppose," MacMillan sings penetratingly, "Spent time far away/ Spent your days lost in grey/ And wishes I suppose/ Mean nothing when/ They're tossed away." Simple but never simplistic, the Connells have carved their own form of pop from '80s influences as well as from those of the '60s — and they're gems in their own genre.

The Connells will perform Saturday, March 4, at 9 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$8 for UNC students, \$9 for the general public and \$11 the day of the show. For more information, call 962-5505.

## UNC's first Tibetan student finds his niche

By DIANA FLORENCE  
Staff Writer

"Coming to UNC was my karma" is not the usual sentiment expressed by most UNC students, but for Migyur Dorjee Samkhar, the first Tibetan student at UNC, this statement summarizes his feelings about his new home.

Dorjee, a political science and international relations graduate student, arrived at UNC in January on the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship. He said that he expects to stay at UNC until late 1991, when he receives his master's degree. He previously attended North Bengal University and Punjab University in India for his undergraduate and graduate education.

According to Dorjee, it was his educational background in world government that first attracted him to the United States. He said that the emphasis on freedom, justice and democracy particularly appealed to him. "These ideals especially interested me because of the constant strife and oppression that has dominated Tibet since the Chinese took over in 1959," he said.

Although Dorjee has not been back to Tibet since his family fled to India when he was a year old, he still considers Tibet his home. Prior to arriving at UNC, Dorjee had been actively working for social reforms in Tibet. He served as the deputy secretary of religion, culture and education under the exiled spiritual and political leader Dalai Lama. "When I return, I hope that I will be able to apply the insight I've gained on international relations to the Tibetan movement," Dorjee said.

Above all, Dorjee treasures the democratic ideals of the United States. He maintains that the economic exploitations suffered in Tibet since 1959 are nothing compared to the vast infringements on personal liberties. "In Tibet there are no free elections, no human rights forums or religious tolerance. Without freedom, there is no existence."

Dorjee said he has always been intrigued by the diversity of the United States. "There are so many cultures peacefully coexisting here, it is truly a melting pot," he said.

He also said that he admires the significant role women play in American society. "In both India and Tibet women are secondary to men in nearly all aspects of society... This is an area that needs much improvement."

Like most students, Dorjee misses the familiar things about home: the food, his family and his friends. He does, however, enjoy American music, movies, fast food and fashion. "It is all so different from my culture — different and yet exciting."

Dorjee said that America has turned out to be somewhat different from what he first expected. "The movies and textbooks depict life in America as very fast-paced. I am happy to find that this is not always the case. At UNC I have been able to enjoy both my studies and my leisure activities at my own pace."

A striking difference Dorjee has noticed about the United States is the attention focused on education. "Much needs to be improved in the educational system of India, especially among Tibetan refugees. The United States' system of education is the paragon which India should emulate," he said.

In spite of his criticisms of the Indian educational system, Dorjee learned to speak English fluently. He said he believes that this is a product



DTH/Regina Holder

Migyur Dorjee Samkhar is the first Tibetan student at UNC

of Great Britain's former control of India. Since his arrival at UNC, however, Dorjee said his English has improved dramatically.

In addition to his classes, he is also teaching the Tibetan language to English professor Robert Howren.

He said he hopes that his coming here will open up the rich culture and language of Tibet to American students. "I would be happy to help anyone interested in learning Tibetan. It is an easy language to learn but difficult to master."



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