



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ROMANCE AND LAUGHTER spill across the decks of the S.S. American in the touring show of "Anything Goes."



WINDHAM HILL recording artists Liz Story, The Modern Mandolin Quartet and Andy Narell open the Odell Williamson Auditorium subscription season with a Nov. 11 holiday program.

## Holiday Concert By Windham Hill Artists Opens Auditorium's Subscription Season

**W**HAT kind of music suits the shortest day of the year, when the sun is farthest from the equator? It should probably refresh the spirit and sparkle like a shaft of sunlight striking a frozen lake.

That's what you can expect from The Winter Solstice Concert, which kicks off not only the holiday season, but also the Odell Williamson Auditorium's first subscription season. This Nov. 11 event will feature three Windham Hill recording artists in a unique holiday program of original work and fresh arrangements of Christmas carols and classical pieces. The concert series was inspired by Windham Hill's recording series, *A Winter's Solstice*, Volumes I-IV.

This year's concert will feature pianist and composer Liz Story joined by bassist Joel DiBartolo, the Modern Mandolin Quartet, and Trinidadian steel drummer Andy Narell.

While the Windham Hill artists may be new to some local listeners, some other names on the subscription list are old friends, like The Platters, The Lettermen and the North Carolina Symphony. Rounding out this eclectic program are a revival of the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes," and a night of family entertainment dubbed "A Winter's Eve Distractions."

In putting together the series, said Auditorium Manager Michael Sapp, "I definitely wanted a Broadway show and I was interested in bringing in different types of music."

The series includes no country entertainment. "We will be doing country, but not this season," said Sapp, "not when you can drive 30 miles to see some of the best country artists there are."

He's offering various enticements to encourage advance season ticket sales. All 1,500 auditorium seats are offered at the same price, \$70 for adults and \$60 for students and senior citizens. There's also an early bird gift for the first 100 season subscribers, a commemorative mug.

Businesses and organizations qualify for a reduced rate if purchasing blocks of 25 or more season tickets.

Season tickets offer a substantial savings over adult single ticket prices for the six shows. "Anything Goes" would be \$22 a seat priced separately, for instance, while *A Winter Solstice* and The Lettermen would be \$15 and \$17 each.

Sapp said that if advance season sales do "really well," he has his eye on several smaller acts

that may be available later in the season. "I might bring them in just for season subscribers at no extra charge."

"As much interest as we've gotten, it could be this season is going to take off."

The first offering, *The Winter Solstice Concert*, is something of an adventure. Windham Hill's artists are technically impeccable musicians and also on the cutting edge of musical innovation, in their arrangements and original compositions and in developing distinctive solo performances and ensemble styles.

Sapp says he has been a fan of the label "for years" and hopes local audiences will share his enthusiasm. "It's an experiment. I want to give it a chance and see what happens. This should kick-start the holiday season."

Liz Story's contributions to the Solstice collections include "Greensleeves" and "Pavanne". She's also releasing her first solo Christmas record to coincide with the 1994 tour.

The Modern Mandolin Quartet features Mike Marshall and Dana Rath on mandolins, Paul Binkley on mandola and John Imholz on mandocello. They perform original works written for the ensemble as well as new arrangements of classical works for the mandolin family. The success of their recording of "The Nutcracker" has led to numerous performances with The Winter Solstice Concerts. Their most recent contribution to the series is an arrangement of J.S. Bach's "Sheep May Safely Graze."

Narell joins the Winter Solstice Concert tour for the first time this year. His work was recently featured in the Tom Cruise hit, "The Firm". In the Solstice recordings his steel drums can be heard on "Carol of the Bells" and "Sleepers Awake."

*A Winter's Eve Distractions* on Saturday, Jan. 21, presents a night of variety, vaudeville style. The program arranged by Auditorium Manager Mike Sapp will feature the Flying Fettuccini Brothers with their feats of comic juggling, Lynn Treuzyar, a ventriloquist, John Stetson's World of Magic, a six-piece stage band, and innovative mime by Hardin Minor between each act. "This will be an evening of family entertainment at its best," Sapp promises.

The Platters have been performing since 1954 with a spread of hit singles such as "Only You," "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes," "The Great Pretender" and the more recent "I Do It All The Time." While the names of the "four guys and a

girl" have changed with regularity over the years, the quintet's own magic touch endures—a combination of solid lyrics with a distinctive performance style and sound. Lead tenor Monroe Powell and James Hardin, Tony Graves, Ray Brewster and Tina Jennings are coming to the Odell Williamson Auditorium Thursday, Feb. 9.

"Anything Goes" first delighted audiences in 1934, and continues to do so 60 years later with Cole Porter's irrepressible songs and lyrics to "Anything Goes," "I Get A Kick Out Of You" and "Blow, Gabriel, Blow," and a story line built around high jinks aboard an ocean liner. Newsday's Allan Wallach summed up the package as "great songs, terrific dancing and a blithely daffy story." The touring edition stops here March 3, just in time to perk up winter-weary spirits.

The Lettermen continue wooing audiences with the universal language of the love song. The group's repertoire of romance includes their chart-topping "When I Fall In Love," "Theme From A Summer Place," "Put Your Head On My Shoulder" and the two-for-one "Goin' Out Of My Head/Can't Take My Eyes Off You." Share a romantic evening listening to the trio Tuesday, March 28.

The Wild West invokes visions of rugged individuals, wide open spaces, man vs. nature. The North Carolina Symphony captures those bigger-than-life themes in its annual pops concert Tuesday, April 18, with music from stage and screen ("The Magnificent Seven," "The Sons of Katie Elder," "Duel in the Sun..."), plus Copland's Rodeo, "On the Trail" from Grand Canyon Suite and the finale from the William Tell Overture.

Maybe Maestro Gerhardt Zimmermann will invite you to sing along on Dale Evans' and Roy Rogers' closer, "Happy Trails". Don't worry about it being a weeknight; Brunswick County Schools students will be on spring break.

The Odell Williamson Auditorium is on the Brunswick Community College campus on U.S. 17 just north of Supply. The box office opens Monday, Oct. 10, with weekday hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets may also be ordered by telephone and charged to either of two major credit cards. Call 754-3133, or Ext. 406 using any of BCC's other numbers, 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

Subscribers will choose their seats when ordering tickets, and will receive all tickets at once.

### BCC's First 'Season' On Williamson Stage

- Nov. 11.....The Winter Solstice Concert with Windham Hill artists
  - Jan. 21.....A Winter's Eve Distractions
  - Feb. 9.....The Platters
  - March 3.....Anything Goes
  - March 28.....The Lettermen
  - April 18.....The Wild West, N.C. Symphony Pops
- All concerts begin at 8 p.m.



THEIR SOUND STILL POPULAR after four decades, The Platters are a welcome addition to the concert series.

### Have An Idea?

Do you know a person, event or organization that would make an interesting "under the sun" feature article? We want to hear it. Call Lynn Carlson at 754-6890, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

## The Hooded Mergansers

BY BILL FAVER

Sometimes during the late fall and winter months we can find one of the smallest ducks on our canals at the beaches. The hooded mergansers are about 17 inches long and have a wingspan of about 25 inches.

The male is the most striking with a glossy black head with a rounded black crest and a white head patch. This patch varies in size as the male raises or lowers its crest. Its breast is white, and two vertical black bars separate the breast from the brownish sides.

Females are dark with a brown head and a crest that can appear from brownish to almost rusty-orange. The back is a dull black and her bill is black with orange near the base. Bills are long and slender and serrated, with the male's bill all black.

Juveniles are similar to the females with less crest, and immature males develop the white head patch during the first winter.

"Hoodies" like timbered stream bottoms, swamps and woodland ponds and lakes for nesting sites during summer. Nests are in cavities which can be holes in trees, hollow logs or nest boxes. Usually 8 to 12 pure

white eggs are laid.

Nesting takes place from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, to Alaska and southward to Florida. Winters are spent south of Massachusetts, Michigan, Colorado and British Columbia to Cuba and southern Mexico.

These small ducks eat small fish, crayfish, aquatic insects and frogs and seem to prefer quiet backwaters for feeding, though they can dive and feed in swift-moving water as well. We can get good views of them feeding along the canals during the winter months. In *Birds of the Carolinas* (Potter, et al), they are described as "a locally fairly common winter resident...most numerous along the coast."

We don't usually get to watch the courtship which features the male swimming faster and faster around the female, with his body twitching and trembling until he finally leaps from the water and does a perfect somersault. She either responds or continues to feed until she is ready to mate. After mating she alone seeks the nest site and lines the nest with down from her breast. She then lays the eggs and incubates them alone for four or five weeks. When the ducklings hatch, she pushes them from the nest and into the water, where they stay close to her body until they begin to fly at about 9 weeks.

Where's the male? Who knows! He may be out jumping around trying to impress another female!



HOODED MERGANSERS are smallest of the mergansers and are found only in North America.