

Features

Tradition continues with 11th annual holiday concert

by Tina Moore
Staff Writer

With Peace and Joy as the theme, the 11th Annual UNCA Holiday Concert will be performed twice on Sunday Dec. 3 at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.

The popular concert has become a tradition in the Asheville area as a start up to the holiday season, and it sells out each year.

Dr. Joyce Dorr, artistic director and producer of the show, said, "This concert has something for everyone. It's fast-paced with no intermission, and it appeals to the child in all of us."

The concert will feature 275 musicians, including six performing groups, famed New York soprano Natalie Costa, and organist Steven Alan Williams. There will be several surprises and a return of Frosty the Snowman, the concert's mascot.

The concert has evolved into an enjoyable tradition Dorr looks forward to every year. "I begin planning for next year while I'm watching the current year's concert. I think about it all year long, and then in early

September the other directors and I get together and make firm plans."

"We chose the theme of peace and joy very early because we feel this is a time of year when people feel peace and joy. There is a warmth and happiness of this time of year, and we want to bring that out even more in our audiences," says Dorr.

The concert began on campus in 1979 with only one group performing for 400 people. The concert expanded and moved to Thomas Wolfe Auditorium in 1986. Last year 4000 attended the performances, with some people turned away for lack of seating.

"This year's concert promises to be the best yet," says Dorr, "We expect another sellout. We have quite a show planned."

The Appalachian Brass Quintet will join the show for the first time, along with annual performers including the UNCA Community Concert Band, UNCA Community Jazz Band and the UNCA Studio/Synthesizer Ensemble.

The UNCA Community Chorus and Jazz Chorus are also featured.

There is a sing-a-long with Santa Claus, a selection of Irving Berlin's Christmas songs and a few traditional English Christmas Carols for the audience to enjoy.

UNCA student Nicole Kmezcza will dance the part of the music box ballerina.

Dorr also feels this is a great way for an entire family to enjoy the holiday season, since the cost of the tickets is so low. "We want this to be a family affair which can be afforded by everyone."

The concert will be performed twice, at 2:00 and 4:30 p.m. Reserved orchestra seats are \$5, and general admission and balcony seats are \$3. Tickets can be purchased from several locations, including the Civic Center box office, the UNCA music office or any performer in the show.

"We really want everyone to come out and enjoy themselves with a little holiday music. It will be a lot of fun," says Dorr.

Getting to know... Markus Roeders

by Marilyn Ball
Staff Writer

We all have the ability to make choices in our lives, but how many would choose to leave home at the age of 17 to live in another country to finish school? It takes someone not afraid of a challenge and someone secure enough to be different. Markus Roeders, president of the SGA, made that choice and is glad he did.

"I've had a lot of fun in the seven-and-a-half years I've been in this country," said Roeders, who will graduate in the spring. "I came over here not really knowing the language and now feel that this is my home. I feel very fortunate how things have happened for me."

Roeders first came to the United States as an exchange student from Germany entering the eleventh grade. "My parents came up with the idea of my coming over here for school," said Roeders. "They encouraged me to be independent and believed living in another culture would be helpful in the long run."

This was very positive encouragement from the parents of an only child, but they had been nurturing his independence from an early age. Roeders's parents are puppeteers and travel around Europe with their puppets. "They gave me responsibilities with their work, but I also had time to be alone. I knew it was OK to be alone and OK to be independent."

What a wonderful gift to give your child! How many people are in therapy today because they don't know how to be comfortable with themselves? For Roeders, leaving home was not something sad, but rather something exciting.

"My parents always said to try new things. They said if

you don't like it, that's no big deal. But if you don't try something new, you may regret not having tried it."

Academically, it was easy for Roeders to adjust to high school in America because a lot of the material had already been covered in his other school. Socially, it took him about two months to start making new friends.

"It was after soccer season had started. I'd played soccer since I was around six or seven. When soccer season started, I really made some close friends and felt I could easily fit in."

The exchange family he lived with in Orlando had four children. Being an only child, it took some adjusting to the dynamics of a large family. "I had a hard time in the beginning. I always seemed to have a headache. I was trying so hard to understand the language and everyone seemed to be

I really felt like I fit into their family." So he stayed.

After graduation, he did go home. "I did not even have college on my mind. But after a while, my parents sensed I wanted to go back to the United States. They really encouraged me to go. They saw me growing up and knew it would be good for me to go back and enter college."

Once again, they were right. "I've just had positive experiences all along," said Roeders. "All my friends are here. The years between 17 and 24 will sit in my mind forever. I can see a real difference in who I am as a person my age having had the opportunities to experience the things I've experienced."

At first, Roeders went to Brevard College to play soccer along with some friends from high school. After two years, he was ready for a bigger school. He had heard UNCA was a good school and knew the soccer coach. "I'm really glad I came here. I've had a lot of fun," he said.

In the summer, Roeders will once again go home to Germany. He wants to let his plans for the future happen a step at a time. "I will want to come back to Asheville sometime and travel to other places as well. But first, I want to rest and reorganize."

Roeders knows the choices he makes for the future will be his own. He has developed a philosophy of life that will make his parents proud.

"I guess it's up to the person to make what he wants out of life. I only do the things I like to do. Sometimes it's a headache, but I wouldn't trade the decisions I've made so far. When I don't feel satisfied anymore, I'll be the first to say let's move on."



Markus Roeders

talking at once," said Roeders.

The plan was to stay one year in America and then return to Germany. However, a school friend urged Roeders to stay his senior year with his family. "This family had only three kids, and they were from Ireland," said Roeders. "The kids were more my age, and

Music department hosts concert

by Kassi Day
Features Editor

This Tuesday night in Lipinsky Auditorium, the UNCA Music Department will host a concert honoring American Music Week.

The concert consists of a piece featuring percussionist Douglas Owens and dancer Connie Schrader. Also appearing will be clarinetist Karen Hill and pianist Suzanne Dixon.

"I tend to do rather experimental music," said Owens, and experimental it is. Owens' and Schrader's piece is a blend of drums and dance. "It's quite spectacular," said Owens.

The idea of a percussionist and a dancer working together initially came to Owens long before he came to Asheville. When a solo percussionist works out a piece, he has to work out the choreography. The choreography of the percussionist suggested the movements of a dancer, said Owens.

Once here, he connected with choreographers Julie Becton and Connie Schrader to create the piece.

"It couldn't have been created without all of our input," said Schrader. "Doug is also a choreographer; his physical presence counts as much as the music and the

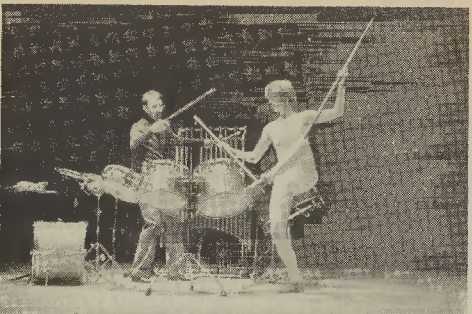


Photo courtesy of Arnold Wengrow

Owens and Schrader: Music and motion

dancer."

Owens and Schrader premiered their piece in October at Florida International University in Miami.

"It was a smash," said Owens. "We stole the show. I think we generated some excitement, right after we came off stage we were invited to perform the number at Chapel Hill and Washington and Lee University."

"It can't be labeled," said Schrader. "It's ridiculous at a lot of points, it's physically demanding, it's dangerous and it's a lot of fun."

Not only does the concert hold in store the unique

blend of percussion and dance, but there will also be music for a solo percussionist and one other instrument. The first piece is for clarinet and percussionist featuring Owens and Hill.

A three-movement marimba concerto for pianist and percussionist featuring Owens and Dixon follows. Owens will also perform a solo marimba piece that has been performed in ten different U.S. cities and Canada.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, in Lipinsky Auditorium. Admission is \$2.

For your information

Tonight: Lip-Sync competition at 8 p.m. in Highsmith Cafeteria. Come check out the talent.

The annual UNCA art students' pottery sale will be held from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Friday Dec. 1 and 9 a.m. to noon on Dec. 2 in the first floor ceramic studio in Owen Hall.

Next Friday: Dec. 8, 1964: As the Beatles will appear in concert in Lipinsky Auditorium at 8 p.m. You'll have to see it to believe it!

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