

Chowan Community Concert: Longstreth and Escosa

Two men who are helping to revive an interest in the harp, Joe Longstreth and John Escosa, will present a concert Thursday, Jan. 23 at 8:15 p.m. in the Murfreesboro Middle School auditorium, 201 W. High Street. The concert, sponsored by the Chowan Community Concert Assoc., was shifted from McDowell Columns, which is undergoing renovation.

"Joe Longstreth and John Escosa bring a new dimension to a somewhat neglected instrument," said a Columbia Artists spokesman. "The unique combination of two men at two harps has brought critical acclaim and standing ovations for their duo-harp performances," noted the spokesman.

Admissions was by season membership in the concert association. Chowan students were admitted by ID cards without charge.

Longstreth and Escosa were introduced to the harp at Wainwright Music Camp in Indiana, but they did not meet and collaborate until both were proven individual successes. Upon chance introduction in 1963, they decided to collaborate in the recording of an album of traditional and original Christmas carols which was highly successful, and the subsequent demand for personal appearances created new stars in the concert field.

Longstreth and Escosa, both native Hoosiers, have delighted audiences with the variety of their musical presentations, the power and strength of their transcriptions and performances, and with the renewed stature they are bringing to the harp, stated the Columbia representative.

Of a special benefit performance in New York's Town Hall, it was said: "...everyone is talking about the spectacular harpists... one of the outstanding experiences of the year."

Since their initial concert appearances as duo-harpists in 1904, the duo-harpists have been in demand for repeat performances with reviewers and audiences alike responding with great enthusiasm to their virility and depth, and also the surprising excitement in their programming, the spokesman said.

In addition to the usual repertoire for performance with orchestra, Longstreth & Escosa played to a standing ovation the exciting Choral et Varie by Widor, never before performed on two harps. Dr. James W. Barnes, conductor of the Terre Haute Symphony, wrote: "Not only did they play beautifully, but they also established right away a very fine rapport with their audience. The future of the harp and harp music is in good hands, indeed, thanks to Longstreth and Escosa."

A highlight of the 73-74 season

for Longstreth and Escosa was the world premiere of the Concerto for Two Harps and Orchestra by Darwin Leitz and the Richmond (Indiana) Symphony. This work, the first ever composed for two harps and orchestra, was commissioned by the Richmond Symphony for the artists. The first performance took place in mid-November, 1973. Of the event, the Fort Wayne (Indiana) News Sentinel reported: "The work is an unqualified success! It is not a showpiece for harps with orchestral accompaniment, but rather a sensitive work in which the harps and orchestra are of equal importance and the balance, as conceived by the composer between these groups, is brilliant. Longstreth and Escosa captivated many in the large audience by playing two encores."

Since concert season 69-70 Longstreth and Escosa have given over four hundred performances on tours which have taken them to all but one state in the continental United States and to every province of Canada.

Joe Longstreth pursued his education at Princeton University and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London, and went on to study in Paris and the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia, Rome. During World War II he was a major with the United States Army Air Forces flying B-29's. Upon his return from Europe, he appeared on Broadway, played in some of the earliest Studio one television and radio shows for four years on Station WLW, one of the foremost

in a group of stations in the United States. His programs featured such material as musical biographies, recounting the lives of famous composers and performers which he augmented with demonstrations at harp and piano.

John Escosa studied at the Juilliard School and was a student of the great Carlos Salzedo. In Fort Wayne, Indiana, he was harpist and soloist with the Philharmonic Orchestra, the Symphonette, and chamber music groups. He has written incidental music for the theatre, scores for ballet, and he was musical director for the Fort Wayne Civic Ballet Company. His most recent composition, *trompe l'oeil*, was premiered at the Longstreth and Escosa concert in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in February, 1969.

Escosa toured with the original road company of Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer prize-winning play, *Glass Menagerie*, and he has appeared in many of the finest clubs in the mid-west where he has delighted audiences with skilled solo renditions demonstrating the vast versatility of the harp.

Appearances in New York's Town Hall and Carnegie Recital Hall have brought requests for return engagements, as well as critical plaudits. Their album **LONGSTRETH & ESCOSA IN CONCERT** has been highly praised and their latest recording, **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**, is being enthusiastically welcomed by countless **LONGSTRETH & ESCOSA** fans from coast to coast.



Duo-harpists, Joe Longstreth, left, and John Escosa presented a concert in the Murfreesboro Middle School auditorium Thursday, Jan. 23 at 8:15 p.m. as the second attraction of the 1974-75 season offered by the Chowan Community Concert Assoc.

Freshmen Conservative

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Self-ratings:		Creating artistic work	10.2
Academic ability	22.9	Writing original works	9.8
Athletic ability	41.8	Theoretical contribution to science	8.0
Artistic ability	14.8	Participate in community action	27.2
Drive to achieve	48.6	Keep up with political affairs	31.4
Leadership ability	35.9	Agree strongly or somewhat:	
Math. ability	12.2	Government not controlling pollution	79.9
Mechanical ability	18.0	Government not protecting consumer	67.5
Originality	27.5	Government should help private colleges	84.6
Physical attractiveness	22.7	To many rights for criminals	55.8
Popularity	26.4	Not obey laws against own views	29.8
Understanding of others	61.2	Women's activities best in home	42.9
Writing ability	24.0	Live together before marriage	40.1
Estimate chances are very good that students will:		Discourage large families	58.5
Change major field	12.1	Sex O.K. if people love each other	46.5
Change career choice	11.2	Women should get job equality	89.5
Make at least a "B" average	17.7	Wealthy should pay more taxes	70.3
Need extra time to complete degree	5.9	Marijuana should be legalized	37.9
Get a bachelor's degree	36.5	Can do little to change society	44.9
Drop out temporarily	1.3	Students help evaluate faculty	68.3
Transfer to another college	18.4	Abolish college grades	29.2
Be satisfied with college	51.5		
Marry while in college	4.7		
Objectives considered to be essential or very important:			
Be an authority in my field	64.8		
Obtain recognition from colleagues	41.9		
Influence political structure	10.2		
Influence social values	30.4		
Raise a family	52.9		
Be well-off financially	49.8		
Help others in difficulty	62.2		
Be successful in own business	48.8		
		The Chowan freshmen are just like the rest of the nation.	

will benefit from the renovated chapel-auditorium.

The spring semester enrollment picture was presented by Chowan's dean of students, Clayton Lewis. He reported a studenty of 908 students from 19 states and 17 foreign countries.

He said he was "very pleased" with the spring semester enrollment. Lewis noted that three full-time admissions counselors are currently visiting high schools in North Carolina, Virginia and a number of others

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Annual Fund Set

Chowan College's Board of Advisors were challenged Monday to help the college reach its 1974-75 Annual Giving Fund minimum goal of \$50,000.

Meeting in the office of Chowan President Bruce E. Whitaker, the advisors were told by Bobby Cross, director of development, that \$31,000 has been raised through gifts and pledges. He thanked them for their support, both through their own contributions and contacts of potential donors. Cross asked advisors to help Chowan receive an additional \$19,000 by May 31 in order to reach the goal. He explained the \$50,000 is a budgeted source of income and Chowan needs to raise that amount to operate in the black for the 17th consecutive year.

In another financial matter, Chowan's president announced that the college received over \$7,000 in interest in 1974 from the Grady D. Askew Foundation. He said proceeds from the foundation are divided equally among Chowan, Roanoke-Chowan Hospital, and Harrellsville Baptist Church. The foundation was established in December, 1967 by Grady D. Askew of Harrellsville with an unrestricted

endowment of \$3000,000. Askew, who died in October, 1973, contributed an additional \$200,000 through his will.

Chowan's chaplain, Dr. Hargus Taylor, reported on progress on the major renovation of McDowell Columns' chapel-auditorium. The \$1000,000 project will include central air-conditioning and heating, seats, carpet, and lighting and sound system.

He said the college will solicit memorial gifts to help underwrite the cost of renovation. He said alumni and other friends of the college will be given the opportunity to make a memorial gift of \$100 to underwrite the cost of one seat. The donor's name will be inscribed on a plaque, Chaplain Taylor observed. He said 600 seats will be installed in the chapel-auditorium. The work is expected to be completed this August prior to the opening of the fall semester for the 1975-76 academic year.

Advisor Billy Raynor of Ahsokie stressed the great need for such an auditorium in the Roanoke-Chowan region. He said many different groups, and especially those sponsoring religious and cultural activities,