

Barter Players Present 'Hamlet' At 8 O'Clock

Robert Porterfield, founder and director of the famed Barter Theatre Players who are presenting "Hamlet" in Whitley Auditorium tonight, states that "There is every indication that American audiences have a very real appreciation for Shakespeare."

Since 1946 the Barter Players have played Shakespeare from Pennsylvania to Florida. "We have found two unvarying conditions on these tours," says Porterfield. "Local critical estimates of our performances which revealed knowledge and understanding of Shakespearean drama, and popular interest in it . . . for its value as true theatre."

During the past two seasons the Barter Players have presented Shakespearean comedies, but this year they have decided on a change of pace in presenting "Hamlet" on tour. The group felt that their audiences would react to tragedy as they had to comedies. This was indicated by the capacity audiences which greeted the production of this play in Abingdon during the summer season.

"Hamlet" has probably been presented more often than any other play. It would be well nigh impossible to reckon up all the productions the play has received in all parts of the world and in nearly all languages.

The Barter Theatre production

is under the direction of Robert Breen who enacts the title role. Also included in the cast are Jacqueline Logan, stage and screen star, and Leo Cialzel who was a member of the cast of Eugene O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh," last season on Broadway.

Breen's Ophelia is Gerry Jedd, popular young Barter actress whose performance was acclaimed during the summer run of the play.

Magnificently costumed, the Barter's "Hamlet" has been approached as a "new play," and the entire production of the celebrated Theatre of the Commonwealth of Virginia is designed to give modern audiences a fresh understanding of the work that has been long recognized as Shakespeare's masterpiece of tragedy.

No strangers to Elon College audiences, the Barter Players have previously staged "The Importance of Being Earnest" on the Whitley stage. Tonight's curtain goes up at 8 o'clock on the Barter Theatre's production of William Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

Gym Construction Starts This Month, Says J. F. Darden

Construction of the Elon College Memorial Gymnasium will begin this month, according to an announcement by James F. Darden, alumni secretary.

The tentative date for beginning construction is March 20, and the work is expected to be finished by Nov. 1. The necessary grading has been done, says Darden, and building materials have been stockpiled.

Nearly \$90,000 of the estimated \$150,000-to-\$175,000 cost has been raised, according to Darden. Donations by alumni and friends of the college include \$44,000 in cash and \$40,000 in pledges. Darden says \$21,000 of this amount has been raised during the intensified campaign of the last three months.

"It is hoped," Darden said, "that interest in the campaign, begun in September, will be increased when the actual construction begins, so that it will be successfully completed soon."

Westmoreland Turns A Hobby Into Serious Study Of Music

Turning the study of music took a strangle hold on a baton, so to speak, and has worked at his profession with a bewildering

As an undergraduate at Elon, his major was business administration and English. Music, then,



PROF. JOHN WESTMORELAND he says, was only a hobby. Even then, however, he was working at his hobby seriously enough to rate giving a solo organ recital his senior year.

late, Prof. John Westmoreland so to speak, and has worked at his profession with a bewildering energy ever since.

Apparently his head was not pointed in the right direction until he spent a summer studying music with the head of the piano department at Columbia University. He got off enough credits that summer to enter graduate school in the fall with no deficiencies. Nine months later he had added to an A. B. in business administration a Master's degree in music.

But it was study Westmoreland was after, not just a degree. Attending the Juilliard School of Music in New York, he studied piano materials and methods with Guy Mair, sonata literature with Katherine Bacon, and the works of Bach with Roslyn Tureck.

The fact is that Westmoreland has rested little since he first took a score to his bosom. He has spent two summers at Columbia serving as student assistant to Lilla Belle Pitts in the department of music education, another

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The students above will be soloists during the Northern Choir tour. Top row: Roger Gibbs, baritone; Jeanne Meredith, soprano; Ann Truitt, soprano; Jack Castle, tenor. Bottom row: Sharon Black, soprano; Jack McFadyen, baritone, Dorothy Parker, contralto.

Seven Student Soloists Accompanying Choir Have Already Gained Regional Recognition

When Elon's choristers move out today to charm audiences at points north, seven student soloists will have no small part in casting their usual spell.

For their ages, there are probably few singers in the country who have won more recognition or shown more promise of gaining future acclaim.

Baritone Roger Gibbs, from Greensboro, has had a run on first prizes in various contests held during the last few weeks. He took first place in the Horace Heidt contest held recently in Greensboro, and in the past two weeks he placed first in both the state Student Musicians' contest held here and in the regional contest held in Athens, Ga.

His solo on tour will be a negro spiritual, "My Soul Is Anchored In the Lord," arranged by Florence Price.

Contralto Dorothy Jones Parker, from Schoolfield, Va., was a member of a high school glee club which won state and national contests. She was soloist in a number of operettas produced in her high school. As a WAC in the service, she toured the U. S.

as a member of the Army War Bond Choir.

Her solo is "Jesus Walked This Lonely Valley," by Nordoff.

Anne Rawls Truitt, soprano, is a graduate of Suffolk, Va., high school. As a high school student she won top rating in state contests, and like Miss Parker, she was a soloist in high school operettas. Like Gibbs, she was an honor roll student in high school, and she won medals for her work in dramatics and other activities.

On tour she will sing, "I Wonder As I Wander," by Niles.

Sharon Black, soprano, is from Burlington. Formerly a soloist with her high school glee club and in Burlington churches, she won first rating in state high school contests.

Her solo is "Halelujah," by Hummel.

Tenor, Jack Castle, like Mrs. Parker, is from Schoolfield, Va. He sang with his high school glee club for three years and took part in operettas.

Castle will sing "Go Tell It On the Mountain," by Work and "In Ecclesiis," by Gabrielli.

Jack McFadyen, another Greensboro boy, sang in his high school state contests. He recently

passed an audition for the Stars of Tomorrow contest going on in Raleigh and broadcast over WPTF.

Last year he won the North Carolina State Paul Lavalle Contest which offered a \$1500 music scholarship, and later represented the state in a regional contest held in Atlanta, Ga.

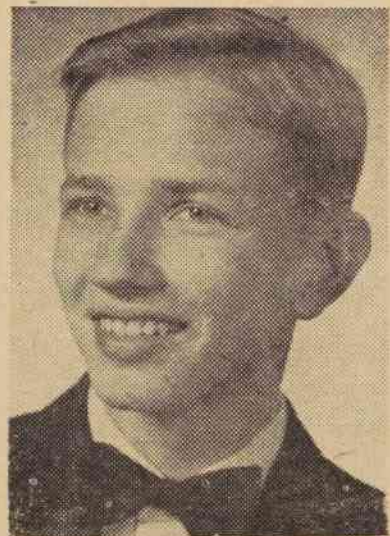
For the past three years he has received first rating in the state's Federation of Music Contest.

On tour McFadyen will sing "Come Unto Me," by Dvorak, and "Battle Hymn of the Republic," by Steffe-Ringwald.

Jeanne Meredith, soprano from Virgilina, Va., is not only a singer of note, but one of the most active members of the student body here. An honor graduate from high school, she is currently president of the glee club, president of her senior class secretary to Dean D. J. Bowden, and editor of the college annual. Last year she was president of the Junior Class and secretary and treasurer of the student body. In October she was one of 11 Elon students named to "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities."

Her song on tour will be "In Ecclesiis," by Gabrielli.

Elon Student Entries Sweep Honors In Contests Here And In Athens, Ga.



FRED SAHLMANN

Three Elon College students made a sweep of the honors in the state Student Musicians contest, sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs, and then went on to the South Atlantic District finals of this competition to win the laurels at that contest held at the University of Georgia. The state contest was held on Feb. 19, and the district finals were held Feb. 26. There is no national contest in this musical competition.

Of the four divisions of competition in the state contest, Elon students claimed top honors in



WAYNE MOORE

three. Roger Gibbs, freshman, was the winner in the men's vocal division; Wayne Moore, senior was supreme among the organists; and Fred Sahlmann was judged to be the best pianist. The winner of the remaining class, the women's vocal division, was Rosa Glenn, of Rockingham.

The winners for this contest were Miss Dorothy Munger, concert pianist and teacher from the Arthur T. Morgan Conservatory in Indianapolis; Miss Anne McClenny, from the music faculty of Hollings College; and Herbert Livingston, Department of Music, UNC Chapel Hill. Carol Smith, supervisor of mu-



ROGER GIBBS

sic in the High Point city schools; and Clarence Southern, of Burlington.

In the state competition Wayne Moore and Fred Sahlmann tied for first place, the distinction of being judged the outstanding student musician in North Carolina. A \$150 purse went with this honor, and Moore and Sahlmann divided the cash prize.

Moore and Sahlmann are students of Fletcher Moore, head of the music department of Elon College, and Gibbs is the student of Lorne Grant, non-resident voice instructor in the College music department.

Elon Choristers Leave On Eleven-Day Tour

The 36-voice Elon College Choir, with Professors John Westmoreland, conductor, Fletcher Moore, accompanist, and Evelyn Hodgins, chaperone, board busses today at noon for an 11-day concert tour which will carry them as far north as Boston, Mass.

For the choir, whose members are already seasoned troupers, this will be the second New England expedition in two years, and their second tour in two weeks.

Last week's three-day trip carried the group through eastern Virginia where they gave six concerts in Congregational Christian churches in Suffolk, Rosemount, Portsmouth, Norfolk, South Norfolk and Newport News.

For the New England tour, the choir has been trimmed from the 56 students who made the Virginia tour to 36. Each student choir member is paying \$20 to defray part of the expenses of the trip.

As in the Virginia tour, all appearances of the group are to be made in Congregational churches. The itinerary calls for eight concerts in Virginia, Wash-

ington, D. C., New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, with two stop-overs in New York City.

The first concert is scheduled for tonight in Richmond, Va. Tomorrow the choir travels to Irvington, N. J., where they are to be overnight guests of the congregation of the First Christian Church. Sunday morning they will sing for the morning services in the Congregational Church of Orange, N. J., and Sunday night they will appear at the church in Irvington.

The troupe will have Monday free in New York City, where they are to stay at the Biltmore Hotel.

On the road again Tuesday, they make appearances in Waterbury, Conn., Tuesday night, Providence, R. I., Wednesday night, and in Brookline, Mass., Thursday night.

Friday morning they are scheduled to return to New York City and again take up quarters in the Biltmore, Saturday the Choir will be guests of NBC Symphony Orchestra, with Arturo Toscanini conducting, at their concert. Friday and Saturday afternoons the students will attend operas and plays of their choice.

Heading south again, the next concert stop will be in Jersey City, N. J., Sunday night, and the last appearance will be made in Washington, D. C.

Arsenic And Old Lace Set A Season Record In Box Office Take

Last week's performance of "Arsenic and Old Lace" in Whitley Auditorium, was, from the standpoint of box office returns, the most successful production of the Elon Players' current season.

A large and enthusiastic audience placed its stamp of approval on the Players' offering by its continuous laughter and hearty applause.

A matinee was given on Wednesday to an invited audience of 200 high school students from Gibsonville and Elon College. Although the matinee house was smaller, its response was as enthusiastic as that of the evening audience.

Moore Has Broad Background Featuring Study And Travel

Professor Fletcher Moore, now in his third year as head of Elon's Music Department, has pursued his study of music with phenomenal persistence for years, even making his war travels pay musical dividends.

With Moore, the promise of things to come came early. During his junior year as an undergraduate at Elon, he won first place in the South Atlantic Students' Musicians contest in both piano and organ. A year later he graduated with a triple major in music, English and mathematics, excellent background for his future studies.

Taking his Master's degree from Columbia, he studied piano with Sascha Gorodnitzki, Russian-American concert pianist, and Guy Maier, American pianist and teacher.

After returning to Elon and teaching three years, Moore planned to go abroad for a year. Plans called for study in Zurich, Switzerland, and a European concert debut. However, five days before sailing time, he recalls, he was advised by the State Department against leaving due to the threat of war.

Forced to change his plans,



PROF. FLETCHER MOORE

Moore did not alter his studying intentions. He went to Santa Monica, Calif., for another year

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