

Calvin Hampton, Organ Professor, Teaches And Composes

By Cynthia Randolph

As the Salem Alma Mater rang through Memorial Hall with a contemporary accompaniment from the organ, someone was heard to remark, "That's Mr. Hampton, the new organ professor, playing for assembly today."

Yes, that is Mr. Calvin Hampton, a 1960 graduate of Oberlin Conservatory of Music, who is the new organ professor at Salem. An accomplished organist and a composer, Mr. Hampton began studying piano at five years of age. But he did not become really interested in music until high school. While studying "Rustles of Spring" and the "Military Polonaise", Mr. Hampton discovered a piano teacher at Kent State University who offered to teach him for half price. After a few lessons, at which the teacher insulted his entire musical background, Mr. Hampton decided to quit, but his teacher would not let him. For a year and a half he studied only Bach "Two-Part Inventions" and

Haydn sonatas which he absolutely hated; this same teacher taught him to like them.

Mr. Hampton then enrolled at Oberlin. After two weeks he found that his background in piano did not seem sufficient, and he changed his major to composition. This was very successful, and he also studied composition privately.

Hampton became friends with an organ major. He began practicing



Mr. Hampton

organ, and, with help in registration, learned four or five pieces. His friend suggested that he change his major to organ, but still study composition privately. Mr. Hampton was naturally afraid to change his major because this would mean making up two years' work in his sophomore year. After only two weeks as a sophomore, Mr. Hampton made an appointment with an organ professor at Oberlin and arranged to change his major. He finished two years of study in only one year by practicing sometimes as much as eleven hours a day.

During his junior year in Salzburg, Austria, he composed several pieces, one of which, a work for string orchestra, was performed twice in Salzburg and once in Friedrichshaven.

Two weeks before his senior recital at Oberlin, Mr. Hampton was interviewed by Robert Shaw and was accepted as organist. Since rehearsals were to begin immediately following Mr. Hampton's recital, it meant learning the Bach "B Minor Mass" in addition to practicing for his recital. After the recital Mr. Hampton became ill, which canceled the tour with Robert Shaw.

During his senior year Mr. Hampton was awarded the Seby-Harlan-Houston Theory Award to the senior organist most outstanding in Theory and Performance. He was also elected by the faculty to play on the Oberlin Commencement Recital Program, which is given by seniors selected from each of the different departments.

This past summer, Mr. Hampton worked with an organ tuner and helped an artist design stained glass windows and an altar in contemporary design for the National Epis-

copal Conference held in Oberlin. Mr. Hampton also rebuilt the organ in Christ's Episcopal Church in Oberlin and was organist for the conference.

Around Cont.

appreciation classes have brought about noticeable changes in South dorm. Groups of girls can be seen (and heard!) around the piano singing Schubert's "Der Erlking" and "Heidenrosein" in the original (?) German — helped by Meggi, of course . . . The girls on second-floor Strong would like to see a change in their surroundings; and they plead with the day students to use room 204 more often. We realize that sheets, pillowcases, and towels along with notebooks and text books are a lot of trouble; but we'd love to see some new faces under bobby pins and fat curlers in the morning . . . Eloise Upchurch changed her mind about Beatniks after receiving a complimentary letter from a beat Yankee. He had seen her name in a Salem College Directory and fell in love with her initials (EHU) and the fact that she lives on Magnolia Street. He even composed a poem in her honor!

There is one thing that Herakleitos forgot, however, when he said that all things change; and that is a woman's curiosity. This was evidenced in the mass of Salemites who risked their lives hanging over the balcony in Memorial Hall before Ferlinghetti's lecture endangering those underneath also, all for the sake of curiosity. But there was one woman who, defying her feminine nature, wasn't in the least curious about what Dr. Ferlinghetti had to say—she stomped out of Memorial Hall after his first poem.

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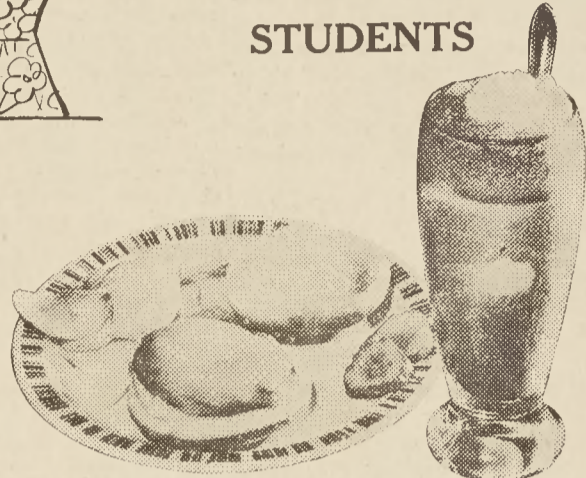
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