

Pianists Bring Russian Styles to UNC CHUMS Band Together for Fest

BY WARREN WILSON
Staff Writer

A five-day celebration of the classical musical legacy of Russia culminates tonight at 8 p.m. when pianist Sofia Lissitchenko plays at Hill Hall Auditorium.

Lissitchenko, a 19-year-old student at the renowned Moscow State Conservatory, is visiting UNC through Sunday courtesy of the Carolina Seminars program, along with conservatory professors Ludmila Roschina and Svedana Sigida and pianist Alexei Melentiev.

In a lecture Wednesday about the history of the conservatory, Roschina, Lissitchenko's professor, spoke about her own teacher, pianist Samuel

Feinberg.

"All of his pupils continue the tradition of Feinberg," Roschina said, as interpreted by Sigida. "Now he's more famous than ever before."

Despite his fame, Americans have had little exposure to Feinberg's playing style or Russian music in general, said Severine Neff, a professor of music at UNC who helped bring the musicians here.

After being invited by Carolina Seminars to come to UNC, Roschina chose Melentiev and Lissitchenko to bring Feinberg's legacy abroad. Melentiev is a seasoned professional who has toured throughout the world playing with the Bolshoi Theater. Roschina chose Lissitchenko because of her age as well as ability.

"(Roschina) felt it was important to have someone the age of the people for whom they would perform," Neff said.

Despite her age and skill, however, Lissitchenko's perspective on her career is markedly different from most forward-thinking American students.

"We never organize a plan for the future in Russia," she said, through Sigida's interpretation.

But the future looks secure for the conservatory, which has not only survived but excelled throughout Russia's stormy history since its 1866 founding.

"We have these economic problems and these political problems," Sigida said, "but we keep our music traditions."

Neff received a Fulbright Fellowship to spend a year at the conservatory in 1998, and has spent much of the last two years trying to bring Russian music and playing styles to the States. In the end Carolina Seminars agreed to sponsor the program, a departure from its normal slate of lectures.

Roschina will give master classes in a performance at 3 p.m. today in Hill Hall Auditorium and 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the Auditorium of Carol Woods Retirement Community, 750 Weaver Dairy Road. Melentiev will give a recital at 3 p.m. Sunday in Hill Hall Auditorium.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

BY ASHLEY ATKINSON
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Chapel Hill Underground Music Society, otherwise known as CHUMS, is really just that — a couple of guys who live on the same hall in Old West and like the same kind of music.

Chapel Hill Fest

Go! Studios
Tonight
6 p.m.
\$8

"We figured out that if we started a club, we could take advantage of University resources," said senior Jeff Bollinger, who, with junior Ben Rogerson, helped CHUMS become an official student organization last spring.

CHUMS is sponsoring its first event tonight, an eight-band benefit festival at Go! Studios featuring hard-core rock acts.

The show is part of this weekend's Students United for a Responsible Global Environment Conference, and proceeds from it will benefit the Student Environmental Action Coalition.

Rogerson and Bollinger began planning a music festival last semester, but after encountering the red tape involved with using a University facility looked to local clubs instead.

"I pretty much spent the entire summer trying to get bands to play," Bollinger said, mainly through e-mails,

the CHUMS Web site and Internet postings. "We did a kind of open call for demos to give us a better gauge of what's going on in underground music."

"We tried to get in contact with a lot of the big bands from the Southeast hard-core scene, with varying degrees of success," Rogerson said.

In the end, CHUMS enlisted eight bands from five states, including Washington, California, Virginia, South Carolina and Florida. The headlining band, Washington's Botch, is "pretty popular, as far as metal bands go," Rogerson said.

Other bands include Waifw, Submerge, the Killingtons, the Disease, Measured in Grey and the Victoria Principal.

They all fall into what Bollinger defines as underground music — "stuff that's typically not on major labels" — and align with CHUMS' main interest in forms of underground rock.

"Personally, most of the stuff we listen to is lots of hard-core metal and punk," said Rogerson, adding, "That definitely doesn't mean Korn or Limp Bizkit."

SEAC members will speak between acts at the benefit and distribute materials relating to their causes.

The event shares some values with SEAC and SURGE, Rogerson said, citing Botch, a vegan band.

"The principles behind most of the

bands and most of the people who go to these shows coincide with SEAC and SURGE. They just listen to Phish and we don't," he said.

After paying the venue and transportation expenses for most of the bands, the rest of the proceeds the event earns will go to SEAC.

"We just figured that if we're going to have this giant fest, it would be best to benefit someone," Bollinger said.

While Bollinger said a few people have expressed interest in joining CHUMS' ranks, for now just he and Rogerson are running the show.

"There's a small population that's interested in the same music we are, and we'd like to get to know them," he said.

And if this event goes well, both said, CHUMS will look into sponsoring more in the future.

"The success of this one will determine how many more activities we do," Rogerson said. "We'd be really open to trying to do another show or benefit in the spring, but that's all depending on how this goes."

The Chapel Hill Fest to benefit SEAC will be held tonight at Go! Studios. Tickets are \$8. For more information, visit <http://www.unc.edu/student/orgs/chums>.

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Campus Calendar

Today

7 p.m. — The curriculum in medieval studies presents "The 13th Warrior," as the second feature of the 2000-2001 Medieval Studies Film Festival. The film will be shown in the Commons Room of

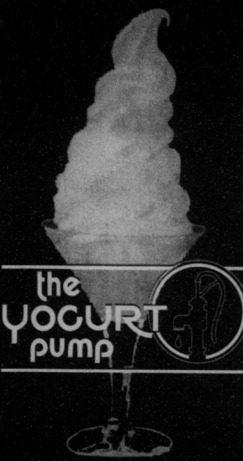
the Johnston Center.

Sunday

7 p.m. — The Executive Branch Cabinet of Student Government will hold its weekly Cabinet meeting on the first floor of Hinton James Residence Hall.

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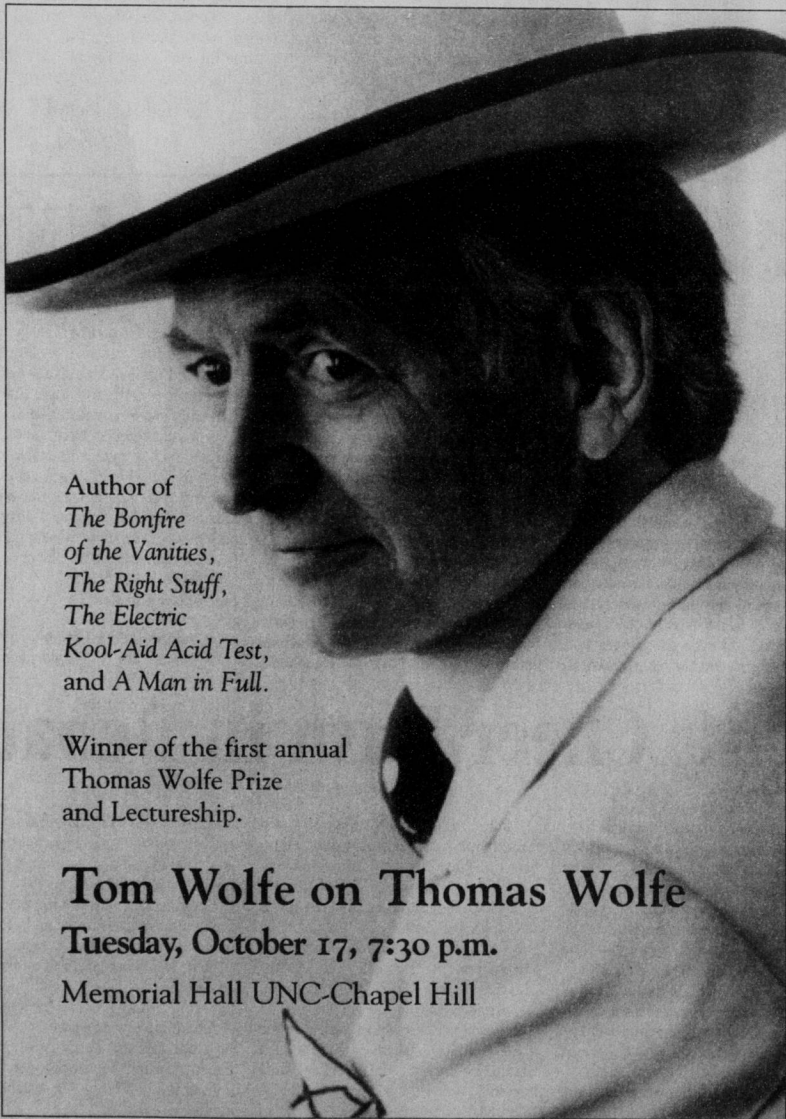
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Tom Wolfe on Thomas Wolfe
Tuesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.
Memorial Hall UNC-Chapel Hill

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For more information on other centennial events, call 919/843-ARTS (2787) or www.artscarolina.org

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

THE THOMAS WOLFE CENTENNIAL

Olde Campus Lower Quad Presents:

Diversity in Political Thought: How Campaign 2000 Affects You!

Monday, October 16, 2000
3rd Floor Aycock/Graham Lounge
6pm
Refreshments Will Be Served.

Distinguished Guests Include:

Dr. Thad Beyle, Professor of Political Science
Dr. Virgil Balthrop, Professor & Chair, Communication Studies
Ms. Minh-Thu Pham, Community Representative

Faculty, students, and community representatives from the Democratic, Republican, and Independent parties will take part in debating issues affecting college students in this year's presidential election. Interest in the political process is critical to increasing the power and influence of the student constituency both at the state and national levels. It is up to all students to become as informed as possible on the issues that affect them directly.

All students, staff, and faculty, regardless of political affiliation, are encouraged to attend.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Sponsored by Department of Housing & Residential Education