

Adrian Scott

Choir thrills, audience poor

Being a reviewer in a community like Chapel Hill is not the easiest of things. One must always try to strike a happy balance between honest, subjective criticism, judgement from an absolute standpoint and regard and appreciation for an artistic effort made with every good intention but perhaps not quite coming up to standard. Of course, there are a host of other things to take into consideration, but that first basic distinction must always be made.

The point I'm working up to is this: listening to the Carolina Choir last Tuesday night, I came to the conclusion that no concessions needed to be made to the amateur, "College" status of this group. The Choir is now approaching the point where it can only be judged by the highest of criteria, by a comparison with the best that choral performance has to offer.

The only disappointment I found in the concert was the pitifully small size of the audience. This concert was worth the \$2 admission and more for the standard of performance alone, without considering that the Choir desperately needs the money to finance its trip to Europe this summer.

But enough of generalization. The concert opened with Byrd's motet "Ave Verum Corpus," a shortish, slow typically Elizabethan piece. Right from the beginning, the Choir showed strength and assurance, with clean phrasing and intonation, and fine resonance.

Dearest Carolyn,
True love like good
wine grows better with
age. Our sweet
vineyard begins May 6...
Love,
Ray

Good Luck on Exams !



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Unaccompanied, as they were for the whole concert, the singers handled well the overlapping entries and complex rhythms of the "Miserere" section.

This was followed by the major achievement of the entire concert, if not of the whole year. "Motets for a Time of Penitence," by Poulenc, are hideously difficult pieces to pull off, and the Choir's self-assured performance was all the more praiseworthy because they had sung it once already that night. The motets deal with the Passion; the betrayal, crucifixion and death of Christ.

A successful performance of these pieces depends more than anything else on superlative vocal tone. This is something quite difficult to define, but it involves control of dynamics, expression and vibrato to produce a polished and disciplined sound. Whatever it is, the Choir had it. Poulenc's sometimes strange-sounding harmonic ideas were clearly and sensitively expressed, and the Choir's attention to detail was exceptional.

Lara Hoggard, the Choir's director, is considered something of an authority on the works of Poulenc, and his great knowledge and understanding of the composer was evident in this performance. Especially good was the last motet of the four in the piece, which deals with the betrayal. This, by the way, comes after the crucifixion scene, because Poulenc considered Christ's betrayal to be continuing to this day. The music in this

section becomes almost staccato at times, and the openness and transparency of the writing is reminiscent of string-quartet style. Despite the large numbers of the Choir, little clarity was lost.

After the Poulenc came a short motet for double choir by Heinrich Schutz. This quick, lively piece was a contrast to the dark, funeral tones of what came before, and made great use of close interplay between the two sides of the choir. Again, the Choir's treatment of direction and line was difficult to fault. As it was in Rachmaninoff's Ave Maria which followed. This was sung in Old Church Slavonic, which didn't seem to worry anyone unduly.

Another high point of the evening was Brahms's motet "O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf," a song of praise and supplication. This is a set of loose variations on a plainsong-like theme, which all come together in typically Brahmsian rich harmony at the end. Impressive here were the percussive, powerful entries from all voices, and the big sound which was revealed almost for the first time.

The last section of the concert was on a much lighter note. Vecchi's "Fa una canzone," with its difficult cross-rhythms and great range of dynamic expression was perhaps sung with a little less care than some of the other pieces, but the slightly rough edges went unnoticed in the exuberance and liveliness the Choir gave it. Gibbon's "Silver Swan" is a

classic and highly innovative piece and was given a suitably competent performance.

"Il est bel est bon" by Passereau, and three madrigals by Orlando di Lasso, bringing the concert to an end, gave some evidence of a tiring choir, but the intensity and mood of the concert was sustained.

The last item of the evening was a new Alma Mater, written by Dr. Hoggard. I am not an aficionado of Alma Maters, but this one seemed a lot better than most, with at least some relevant and different words and some interesting music.

After almost two years of listening to and performing with the Choir, I can confidently say I have never heard them sing so consistently well. This concert was a joy, and I know that the University, the State and North America could not be better represented in Austria this summer. I just hope this University and this State have enough presence of mind to make sure they get there.

Ehringhaus initiating fund drive for Choir

Suzi Ward
Feature Writer

The Carolina Choir has a friend in Hadley Whittemore, a legislator in the Ehringhaus Residence College. He's organizing a funding drive among the other colleges to help contribute to the Choir fund.

Whittemore, a junior from Hendersonville, has been working with members of the Choir to help raise money for their trip to Graz as Resident Choir of the Graz International Youth Festival. The Ehringhaus Council pledged \$50 and each floor donated \$15, for a total contribution of \$140. "We hope that each residence college will do the same," Whittemore said.

During exam week, Whittemore plans to visit other members of the RCF to see if they will allocate any of their left-over funds. "If each floor donated \$15, that would work out to a little more than a dime per person," he explained. Anyone

interested in making a contribution can contact him at 933-5316, 51 Ehringhaus or send them to Dr. Lara Hoggard at Hill Hall.

The Choir made over \$600 from both of last night's concerts, but they need to raise about \$26,000 more before they can go to Graz. Presently, they have \$20,000 in their fund. Mitch Simpson, Choir president, said each Choir member has been asked to try and raise \$150 through donations during May and June. "If they reach this goal, that would add another \$10,000 to the fund. He also mentioned that they would be contacting businesses and alumni to help contribute.

"The Choir will be in Chapel Hill on July 1 for eight days of intensive rehearsing - it will be a period of work and of relaxing with one another in preparation for our trip," Simpson noted. They will give a concert in Hill Hall on July 8 and are scheduled to leave for Europe the next morning.

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"L.H. Fountain has served nearly 20 years in Congress, six years in the State Senate, four years in the Armed Forces, has been an active member in his church, has been active in all Community work.

"His congressional work has been outstanding as I was able to observe for many years in Congress. He was and is highly regarded by the Members of Congress.

"He has attained valuable experience by his hard work and service to his district.

"L.H. Fountain is asking that we renominate him to represent our district. I do not hesitate to recommend him to you and will appreciate your support."

Carl Durham
Chapel Hill
Former Member,
U.S. House of Representatives

Vote for L.H. Fountain for Congress
in the 2nd District Democratic Primary



Crossword Puzzle

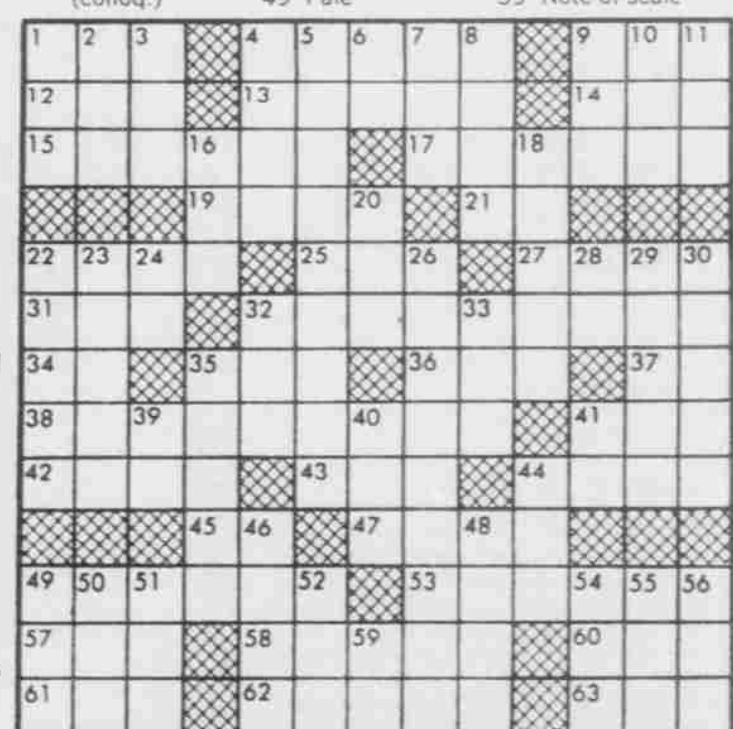
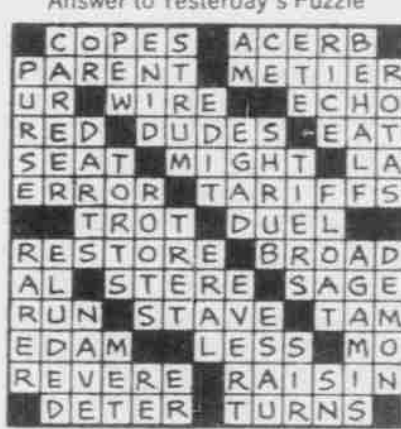
ACROSS

- 1 Wooden pin
- 4 Willow
- 9 Parent (Colloq.)
- 12 Turkish commander
- 13 Feeling
- 14 Fruit drink
- 15 Mental state
- 17 Device for smoothing floors
- 19 Lake in Italy
- 21 Behold!
- 22 Withered
- 25 Possessive pronoun
- 27 Gaelic
- 31 A state (abbr.)
- 32 Street cleaners
- 34 Symbol for tellurium
- 35 Wheel tooth
- 36 Peacock butterflies
- 37 Bone
- 38 Substance found in plants
- 41 Exist
- 42 Cease
- 43 German for "yes"
- 44 Paradise
- 45 Man's nickname
- 47 Ceremony
- 49 Made of wool
- 53 British admiral
- 57 Macaw
- 58 Invent
- 60 Greek letter
- 61 Openwork fabric
- 62 Lock of hair
- 63 Skill

DOWN

- 1 Knife at cards
- 2 The self
- 3 Long, slender fish

Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle



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