

University offers varied musical groups

By ANNE BRUBAKER
Collegian Staff Writer

More than 1,500 students participate in many vocal and instrumental groups available at Penn State, giving them an opportunity to meet new people and see new places.

One of the largest vocal organizations on campus is the University Concert Choir under the direction of Raymond Brown. The 180 to 200-member group is composed of mixed voices and open to all University students. The choir, which performs mainly large choral works, holds two formal concerts a year, one during the Christmas season and the

other in spring.

Last March the choir performed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in Heinz Hall and Carnegie Hall. The symphony is scheduled to appear with the choir for a repeat performance of the work at the spring opening of the new University Auditorium.

The choir also has planned a singing tour of Germany, Austria, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Hungary for the early summer.

The University Chapel Choir, also under Brown's direction, is a group of 90 mixed voices performing sacred choral works

at the weekly services in Eisenhower Chapel. The group combines with the Concert Choir for formal concerts.

Brown also directs the Penn State Singers, a group of experienced singers whose repertoire ranges from madrigals to Bach's Mass in B-Minor. In January, the Singers will perform the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, "Trial By Jury."

For less experienced singers, there is the All-Faith Chapel Choir. The group, formed last year, is composed of about 50 members and is directed by Tommie Irwin, new assistant choral director. The group will present special programs throughout the year.

All four groups are open to all University students and may be taken for course credit. Auditions can be arranged by calling the choir office in Eisenhower Chapel.

According to Fr. James May, the Catholic Chapel Choir offers students not only course credit but a chance to experience a wide variety of sacred music. "We sing everything from Gregorian Chants to pieces for electronic tape and voice," he said.

The choir sings for the Catholic services held Thursday evenings in Eisenhower Chapel. No audition is required for membership. Anyone interested, regardless of religious affiliation, is encouraged to attend rehearsals 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays in 212 Eisenhower Chapel.

"Formal organizations sometimes tend to stifle creativity and we like our group to be as creative as possible," Rev. Charles Coleman, adviser of the United Soul Ensembles said. "Our members suggest songs they'd like to sing and then our student director decides the repertoire."

The United Soul Ensemble's first concert will be October 14 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in State College.

"We have been invited to perform at the National Black College Gospel Choir Festival in Atlanta November 23 and 24. Hopefully, we will, but right now funding is a problem," Coleman said.

Auditions for the group will be held 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Black Cultural Center in Walnut Building.

For students interested in secular vocal music, Penn State offers the Glee Club, the Hi-Los, the Pennsylvania Vocal Ensemble and the Penn State Singers.

The all-male Glee Club will present a Homecoming Concert 7:30 p.m. Sept. 29 in the HUB Ballroom. Admission is free. The group, whose repertoire ranges from 16th century to 20th century music, will perform with the Manhattanville College Girls Glee Club later this year.

The Hi-Los is a group of 12 Glee club members who perform madrigals and folk songs. They combine with 12 women to form the Pennsylvania Vocal Ensemble. This group will perform Handel's Messiah with the Penn State Chamber Orchestra early in December.

Anyone interested in auditioning for these groups should contact Bruce Trinkle in the Music Building. Tenors and experienced women singers especially are encouraged to audition.

For pop, rock and jazz the vocal group is the Penn State Singers. Directed by Elmer Wareham, the group presents informal concerts in dorm areas throughout the year. Their music ranges from Broadway show tunes to pop hits such as "MacArthur Park."

Auditions will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday in 110 Music Building.

Wareham also directs the Pennstatesmen, a 19 piece dance band. Ferguson's "Eli's Coming" and "Heaven" from "Jesus Christ Superstar" are included in the Statesmen's repertoire.

Anyone interested in playing with the group should sit in at their rehearsals 9 p.m. Monday in 110 Music Building.

Perhaps the best known instrumental group on campus is the Marching Blue Band directed by James Dunlop. Composed of about 160 members, the band plays at all football games and bowl games. A smaller informal group, the Pep Band, plays at other sports events during the year.

The Concert Blue Band, also under Dunlop's direction, differs from the Marching Blue Band in size and instrumentation. "We use flutes and all types of clarinets in the Concert Band and usually have around 105 members," graduate assistant Jim Bedison said.

For more formal instrumental experiences, Penn State offers the Orchestra, Brass Choral and Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

The Orchestra, directed by Douglas Miller, will be holding auditions next week. String players are encouraged to audition.


The group presents five formal concerts a year. The first will be held Nov. 10.

Miller also conducts Musica de Camera, a chamber orchestra composed mainly of music majors. Their first concert will be Oct. 3 in Recital Hall.

The Brass Chorale, a group of 20 brass players and percussionists, present music ranging from the baroque period to the contemporary period, according to Director James Benschhof.

Their first concert will be with the Glee Club for Homecoming. Although formal auditions for the group are over, interested musicians, especially French horn players, may contact Benschhof anytime.

According to Director Smith Toulson, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble is essentially an enlarged concert band wind and percussion section. The 40 to 50 member group plays original music for wind and percussion as well as pieces for smaller groups.



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School calendar boasts changes

By ROBIN MOORE
Collegian Staff Writer

As University students scan the coming school-year calendar they will notice some changes.

Fall Term opened two weeks earlier this year and will end Nov. 17.

Winter Term will begin Dec. 6 and will break in the second week for a two-week Christmas vacation.

Spring Term will begin March 14 and will be over by the end of May to give students a better chance at summer jobs.

University Scheduling Officer John E. Miller, Jr. said the changes were made to enable students to get out earlier in spring and get a jump on the summer job market.

"These changes were made at the students' request," Miller said. "They seemed willing to sacrifice vacation time over Christmas so that they could get out on the job market earlier in the spring."

Miller said he is not satisfied completely with the calendar but he said he feels it was the only alternative if students were to finish Spring Term earlier.

Possibly one of the calendar's strongest disadvantages is that Winter Term will be interrupted by a two-week Christmas holiday.

Patricia Wilson (4th-journalism) said she does not like the new vacation arrangement.

"The new schedule only gives us four days before Christmas, which isn't too good because Christmas is a big family thing for me," Wilson said.

Many students said they felt a holiday in the middle of a term would be filled with required readings, papers or guilt from incompleting homework.

One student noted, "In the semester system, finals come right after Christmas vacation, so the pressure is really on. But this way, you'll come back and still have eight weeks before exams."

Few students seemed to mind coming back earlier in the fall and many said they appreciate the chance to get out earlier in the spring when the weather is nice and the job market ripe.

One good thing about the new calendar is that now Penn State will be in synch with other schools around the country. In the summer, when somebody from Penn State goes job-hunting, he won't find that all the jobs have been taken by people from other schools who got out two weeks earlier," Thomas King (12th-engineering) said.

Allan Draper, professor of industrial engineering, said he is displeased with the revised calendar and said he feels the semester system is the answer.

"A 16-week semester with a week's break in the middle would be much better," he said. "On the term system there's no time. It's just rush, rush, rush, with no let-up."

Correction

The book "Fortran IV with Watfor and Watvif" is being published by the Computer

The new calendar changes already have been approved

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