

Ensemble to feature piano, oboe masters



Photo Courtesy of the Center for the Performing Arts

Wojciech Rajski will conduct the 32-piece Polish Chamber Philharmonic at 8 p.m. tonight. Wojciech founded the group in 1980.

By OBI EZEKOYE
Collegian Staff Writer

The Polish Chamber Philharmonic featuring renowned pianist Christopher Taylor and oboe soloist Simon Dent will perform at 8 tonight in Eisenhower Auditorium. Wojciech Rajski, who founded the group in 1980, will conduct the 32-piece string ensemble. The show will be the ensemble's third in an 11-show U.S. tour, which began last Friday and will last through the end of the month. The group will perform *Three Pieces in Ancient Style* by Henryk Gorecki, *Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra* by Richard Strauss, *Concerto for Keyboard and Orchestra in D Minor No. 1* by Bach, and *Symphony No. 40 in G minor* by Mozart. The Philharmonic was selected because it is one of the premier

philharmonics in the world, said Peter Wray, spokesman for the Center for Performing Arts. Taylor is one of the world's finest pianists, recently winning a prestigious Van Cliburn Award, Wray said, adding Dent is also one of the best oboe soloists in the world. "Because those two individuals are playing with the orchestra, it is a world-class event. This is a wonderful opportunity for people in the State College region to experience world-class classical music," Wray said. In addition to performing with the Polish Chamber Philharmonic, Taylor also will provide a piano master class at 3 p.m. today in Recital Hall. In this performance, four Penn State piano students were selected to perform selections for Taylor and an audience. Taylor will then provide the stu-

dents with hints, constructive criticism and advice on how to improve their playing. "A master class serves as a combination of performance and instruction. The pieces are pretty polished," said Douglas Fisk (senior-music), one of four students selected to perform this afternoon. Amy Vashaw, director of education for the Center for Performing Arts, said every artist that comes through the center does some kind of educational program — such as classes, lectures and workshops. These educational programs are always free and almost always open to the public. Tickets for the concert cost \$28 and \$18 for adults and \$18 and \$10 for Penn State students and are available at Eisenhower Auditorium or by calling 863-0255.

Fathead returns to town after road tour

The seven funky Philly rockers of Fathead will be making a triumphant return to State College when they play at 10 p.m. tonight at Café 210, 210 W. College Ave. After performing at the Café on Sept. 18, Fathead has gone south to play shows in Delaware, North Carolina and South Carolina before heading north for a return engagement.

Since forming four years ago, the rap-jam septet has been gaining popularity in its hometown of Philadelphia, mainly due to the strength of its fun and danceable live show. But there is more to Fathead than its claim to fusing rock and rap long before the genre achieved such great popularity. The band's Web site (www.fathead-music.com) is packed with photos, Philly flava' and tons of information to keep its fan base in touch. This is especially useful for the band because so many of its first Philadelphia-area fans are currently college students spread across the East Coast.

In addition to a loyal fanbase, Fathead is able to attract new fans with the musical variety it offers on stage. In addition to funky back beats and groove-heavy bass lines infused with jazzy improvisation from guitarist Pete Keenan, Fathead can't help but start a party with its humor and on-point rap vocals.

And the band knows where its recent success, like being named best local band by *Philadelphia* magazine, is coming from. Fathead's touring schedule is pretty intense. The band played late into the night at last month's Café show because its members' arrival into State College was delayed as they frantically tried to get to Penn State from an afternoon show in Vienna, NY.

Fathead will keep up the intensive touring that has brought the band its popularity, rolling through Delaware, New York and Pennsylvania for the next few weeks before returning to Philadelphia.

— by Scott Swindells

Lottery scandal to be Hollywood movie

By JIM STRADER
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG — The darkest days of the Pennsylvania Lottery could shine the bright lights of Hollywood on Harrisburg.

Paramount Pictures is planning a movie based on the scandal that resulted from the rigged drawing of the number 666 that sent a lottery official and a television personality to prison, according to state and studio officials.

Numbers, directed by Nora Ephron, the writer and director of *You've Got Mail* and *Sleepless in Seattle*, could begin production as early as next month and part of the movie may be made in Harrisburg, state film officials said.

John Travolta has been reported to be the star, but state film officials said that had not been confirmed. A Paramount source who declined to be named said Travolta's name has been linked to the film, but that the studio would not confirm casting details until production starts.

For the state government, the project presents both the opportunity to have a major studio make another feature film in Pennsylvania — bringing along the dollars that accompany movie production — along with the resurrection of unpleasant history.

Lottery district manager Edward Plevel and TV announcer Nick Perry both went to prison for their parts in fixing the April 1980 result, which paid \$3.8 million, a record high amount at the time. All told, eight people involved in the fix won about \$1.2 million.

"It's my understanding that it's going to be sort of a humorous look at the lottery or lotteries in general," Pennsylvania Lottery spokeswoman Sally Danyluk said Monday.

"I don't think we'll ever laugh about that," she said.

The 1980 drawing marked the first time in the game's three-year history that 666 had been drawn. The number took on a mystique in the game immediately and has been drawn 11 times since, the last time being March 1998.



Collegian Photo/Jim Rajotte

Pumpkin picking

Lydia Hanhardt of State College and Jeremiah Dyehouse (graduate-English) search for the perfect pumpkin. Many students are using decorating for fall.

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