

NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

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FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

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(Suggest possible use from your files of photograph of Paul Wolfe, Adjunct Professor at New College and conductor of Florida West Coast Symphony)

A woodwind quintet, a string quartet and a concert pianist all performed at 8:30 on recent mornings for the student body at New College, giving musical lectures as part of the students' Humanities course.

The early morning classical music fare was the idea of Paul Wolfe, who is adjunct professor at New College as well as conductor of the Florida West Coast Symphony Orchestra. The program was worked out under the direction of Dr. Ross Borden, Jr., Dean, Division of Humanities.

Professor Wolfe had four weeks to give students a basic idea of the form and meaning of music as part of a coordinated study of the arts.

Live music, figured Professor Wolfe, was a good way to bring fine music to the student body and to combine it with teaching.

(More)

1 add Wolfe

Using a special gift to New College from Mrs. Lota C. Mundy, he was able to assemble a woodwind quintet from the Florida West Coast Symphony Orchestra, to use the Aeolo String Quarter, and to bring here concert pianist Jacques Abram.

Every Friday for four weeks, one or the other performed at 8:30 a.m. in College Hall for almost two hours while Professor Wolfe and some of the artists talked about the music and the instruments.

On another day, Professor Wolfe would give a full lecture for the same span and then follow this with a mass listening hour using the college's record and tape collection to illustrate the subject. He also was able to illustrate his own lectures by playing either the violin or piano.

"We are trying to cover a semester's work in four weeks," says Wolfe, "but the students seem able to absorb the material very well."

He cited results of two music tests given to the students, one at the beginning of the course and the other after only two weeks.

"There was a 31 point difference in the scores on the average," said Professor Wolfe, "indicating that the combination of live and recorded music and the lectures had been effective."

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2 add Wolfe

During the period which ends today each student was asked to write a melody, compare works performed by the woodwind quintet, compare baroque, classic and romantic works, and also to write a paper on live versus recorded music.

"The latter assignment gave students the chance to use the work of the first term in humanities during which they learned to apply certain value judgments to art forms," said Wolfe. "They gave some very convincing reasons for their preferences too."

The four-week period ends today with Dr. Douglas Berggren, Professor of Philosophy, giving the second of two lectures on the critical understanding of music as an art.

Along with a technical study of music, the understanding of music on its own terms, Professor Berggren gives the philosophic view, helping the students to inquire whether it is possible to talk about music from a philosophic viewpoint.

He compares musicians and philosophers during the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Contemporary periods and gives the students various standards by which such a comparison may be made.

This ending on a philosophic note also brings unity to the humanities course, for the students spent the first term in the general study of aesthetics. As they complete the technical study

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3 add Wolfe

of music, they are given the chance to view music using the evaluation standards of aesthetics they had earlier studied.

"The students should have a good background to enjoy fine music and they have the fundamentals to go on reading, listening and learning," concluded Professor Wolfe.

All lectures and live music performances were taped so that students could replay them at their leisure and also so that they will become a part of the library of the college.

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