

# Cinco de Mayo: victory of the spirit

BY CAROLYN ROSE  
STAFF WRITER

Tomorrow's Cinco de Mayo celebrations will commemorate not only a Nineteenth Century battle, but a victory of spirit.

Velicia Haron, interim director of Multicultural Student Affairs, has researched the historical significance of Cinco de Mayo, which means, literally, fifth of May.

"Cinco de Mayo inspires Hispanics everywhere be-

cause it symbolizes victory against overwhelming odds," said Haron. "It represents the classic tale of David and Goliath.

"It is the anniversary of the 1892 battle of Puebla, in which Mexican forces, against overwhelming odds, defeated French invaders."

Haron said that the battle followed civil unrest in Mexico, after which the country suspended payment of its large foreign debt.

"As a result, France, England and Spain agreed to make a joint naval demonstration against

Mexico in order to compel payment to bondholders," Haron said.

When an agreement was reached, England and Spain withdrew, but, according to Haron, "French emperor Napoleon III had other plans, (and) started a war of conquest.

"When he attacked the forts of Laredo and Guadalupe near Puebla on May 5, 2,000 Mexican soldiers under General Ignacio Zaragoza drove back 6,000 troops and won the day."

# Music students fill the air with 20th-century sounds

BY STEPHANIE PENNER  
COPY EDITOR

If you've ever wondered what the 20th century sounds like, the Chamber Ensemble will let you wonder no more.

The four-student group will present works of the 20th century in its first concert Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in the courtyard of the Ham Fine Arts building.

"It's about music you don't always hear," said Christopher Dwyer, a junior vocal major. "The 20th century is almost over and no one likes to hear it."

But this group will present different sounds despite the 20th century music's lack of appeal.

The ensemble will perform works written between 1930 and 1991 including minimalist chant music, aleatoric chance music and art songs, which are set to a poem and include voice and piano.

The Chamber Ensemble includes Dwyer, Carrie Stellflue, a senior vocal major, Marianne Hibe, a sophomore music major

and Jeffrey Pizzo, a senior at Clark High School.

Each of the students will solo on an art song. "Ecce puer," written and sung by Dwyer, is a song for baritone, piano and flute.

"Its rather traditional," Dwyer said, "but it has new sounds. It's not boring."

Dwyer said he was inspired to write "Ecce puer" after he read some James Joyce poems.

Stellflue said they had to choose music for four voices, music that was representative of the 20th century and music that was accessible.

They narrowed their choices down to 70 or 80 pieces and from there picked their final 11 songs.

"Living Room Music," written by John Cage, is a rhythmic piece that includes beating on certain items, such as a wall, a speaking duet and a melodic piece with piano.

"It emphasizes that music is not always melody," Stellflue said. "It has to do with rhythm too."

"Symphony of Psalms," by Igor Stravinsky, will be used with four voices instead of a choir and has got a melody, although very dissonant, according to Stellflue.

The group will also perform a "pop" song titled "Hey When I Sing These Four Songs Hey Look What Happens" by James Tenney.

"We like it because it sounds kind of popish—kind of shouty," Stellflue said.

Though the Chamber Ensemble has been around for years, this is the first time a vocal ensemble will perform 20th century music.

According to Isabelle Emerson, faculty adviser, all other fine arts accept the 20th century into their genre except music.

"Most of the music performed today is 200 years old," Emerson said.

"I think (musicians) shy away from it because they don't know much about it," Stellflue said. "It's hard to get a hold of, it's hard to learn and it's not in a key. People favor melodic stuff. In dance and art you don't have to copy other people's work."

The group chose to perform their concert because of the lack of opportunity and for fun.

"We don't always get to do our own thing," Hibe said. "We don't ever get the chance to do 20th century music."

Stellflue said they got the ensemble approved through the music department for credit although the credit doesn't count for their degrees.

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