Choral group rises above obstacles

Musical Art Society triumphs over 55 mph wind

BY JASON SHEEHAN STAFF A&E WRITER

The Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society performed in front of a small but appreciative crowd last Friday at the Clark County Library.

Although the concert had both its high and low points, the group, under the tutelage of Douglas Peterson, associate professor of music at UNLV, persevered and rose to the occasion.

Peterson attributes the low attendance to Friday's wind storm, which produced wind gusts of up to 55 mph.

Most of the concert's problems occurred during the beginning of the show. Early in the third song, "Death Shall Not Destroy This Body," the men were tentative and had problems with the pickup note. As a result of the confusion, the men paid more attention to the sheet music than they did their conductor. The faltering may be attributed to what Peterson explained as "a very difficult" piece of music, and one bass singer not showing up for the performance, reducing the 22-voice choir to 21 voices.

The concert reached its high point immediately after the intermission. Peterson's children, UNLV student Robert and Marc Kahre Elementary School music teacher Carolyn, electrified the crowd with incredible solos in the folk song, "Play Party." Their beautiful voices soothed the audience, drastically improving the performance.

"Robert's been in the small group since 1981," Peterson said proudly. "That's when it was founded. Carolyn came seven years later, but they sing with me constantly.

For those who missed the show, the ensemble will perform again at the Community College of Southern Nevada's Cheyenne Campus on June 1 at 8 p.m. and June 2 at 3 p.m. For more information, call 451-

Rocking with Bach and Beethoven

Carl Fischer combines tradition and technology into one-man show

BY JENNIFER EVANS STAFF A&E WRITER

Pianist and composer Carl Fischer, of UNLV's music department, will combine the excitement of rock 'n' roll with the music of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven from 5-7:30 p.m. tonight in the alumni amphitheatre.

The concert is part of the 1996 Spring Fling Pardi

In addition to the classical music, the concert will also feature original music by Fischer, Yanni and a series of other composers. Fischer will use new technology, through the use of a computerized instrument called the midi-grand, which instantly transcribes the notes being played on the piano and produces a sheet music print out.

Another interesting as-

pect of the performance is how Fischer creates the background orchestra for his piano concert.

"The software that I will be using for these pieces will be sequenced on the computer, so that all of the orchestra parts, except for the piano, will be played by the computer," Fischer explained.

Fischer feels that it is very important for youth to become involved in the world of classical music. "My goal is to get kids interested in the classics," he said. "I feel that the best way to do this is to offer the classics in a rock, heavy metal and new age format that our adolescents can relate to."

Fischer spoke with enthusiasm about how he enjoys playing the piano and why he decided to put on this concert. "This is my life long dream, I have always wanted to perform my music in a concert.'

The free concert is sponsored by the Moyer Student Union, Campus Community Development, CSUN, and the UNLV Department of Music. For more information on any of the Spring Fling events, call

Gere stars in courtroom drama

BY BRIAN KUCHAR STAFF A&E WRITER

An actor I've never enjoyed watching is Richard Gere. His smirk and style seem so fake, yet thousands of fans swarm to every movie he makes. Why? I do not know. I find

him only getting top movies because of his looks, and not because of any acting ability.

When I entered the movie theater to see Primal Fear, it was actually my first time to see a Gere movie on the big screen instead of on video. I was soon awestruck by his spectacular performance in this Spring's surprise hit.

Based on William Diehl's best selling novel, this courtroom drama is for those craving more than just your runof-the-mill Grisham thriller. Even though movies such as The Client are entertaining, Primal Fear takes the moviegoer on another level of intrigue and mystery.

Gere plays Martin Vail, a Chicago criminal defense at-



BY BRIAN J. KUCHAR

Primal Fear प्रेप्नप्रे1/2 out of प्रेप्नप्रेप्न

out media-blitzed trial. He sees a new case on television and decides to pursue it.

Vail decides to offer his services to a young altar boy, who is the only suspect in the murder of the archbishop of the Chicago diocese. The altar boy, the highly emotion-driven Aaron Stampler, is played by Edward Norton.

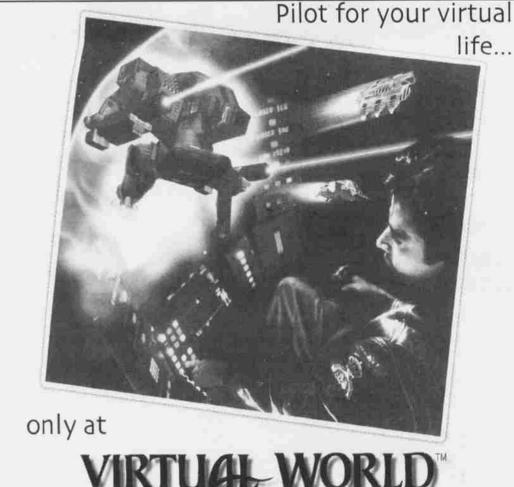
Unfortunately, Vail has to go up against his ex-girlfriend and prosecuting attorney Janet Venable, played by Laura Limey, most recently seen in the forgettable Congo. She and Gere interact wonderfully together as the two ex-flames who have a chemistry still thriving with possibilities.

Primal Fear costars John Mahoney of NBC's Frasier, who plays tough-minded state attorney John Shaughnessy, and Frances McDormand of Fargo, who plays psychiatrist Molly Arrington.

Don't let the Simpson case steer you away from this media trial. Come to the theater prepared for an entertaining psychological feast.



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