

Classical music played

# Roundtop's festival draws young and old

By GLENNA WHITLEY  
Battalion Staff

If "outdoor concert" conjures pictures of Willie Nelson's Fourth of July debauches in your mind, consider Round Top's refreshing approach to entertainment among the ages. Every week end through July, classical music played by talented artists will delight people who gather at Festival Hill in Round Top, Texas, a rural atmosphere that enhances the beauty of the music.

The seventh season of the International Festival-Institute at Round Top opened last weekend with a piano recital by James Dick, founder and artist-director Friday, and the Austin All-City Orchestra Saturday.

Many people brought lawn chairs, blankets and buckets of fried chicken to picnic on the festival grounds or at the park in the town square. One couple made their picnic a formal affair, eating grapes and popping imported champagne from crystal goblets.

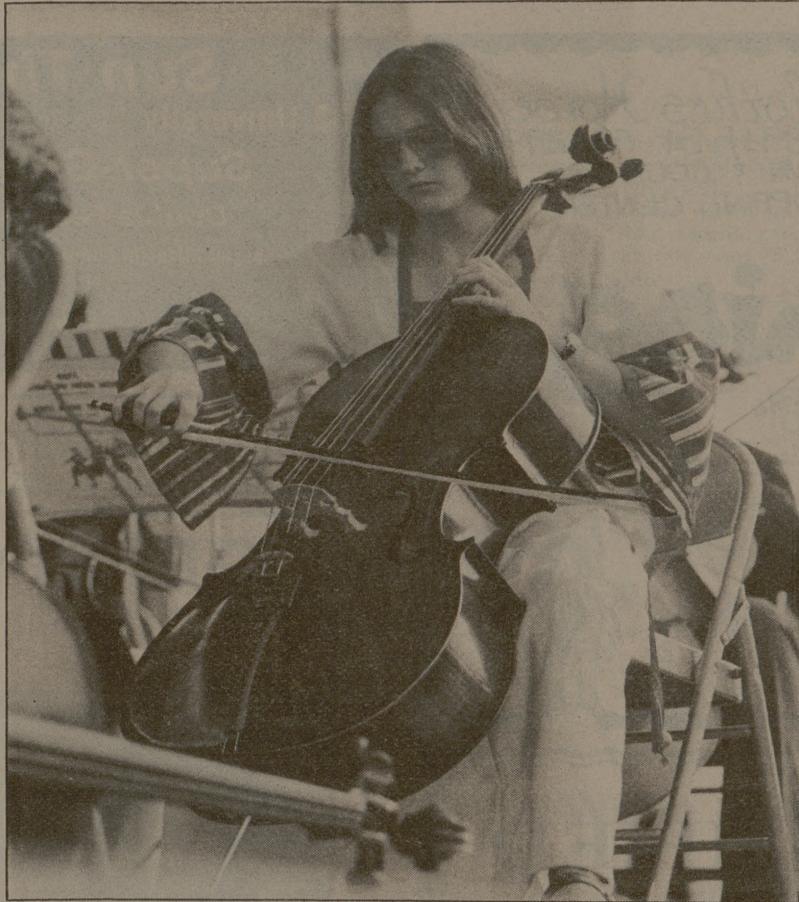
Antique stores and an old-fashioned general store ring the town square. The general store's proprietor urged customers to buy locally made quilts "to put between you and the redbugs up on Festival Hill." He then hastily denied that redbugs exist in Round Top. Gathering for the Saturday night concert, the music fans didn't seem worried about redbugs or anything else. Old, young, country and metropolitan. They milled about the gently sloping hill, chatting and getting comfortable for the two-and-a-half hour concert. As the sun sets, the sounds of Chopin, Copland, Britten and other Vivaldi swelled from the strings and horns of the Austin All-City Orchestra. The effect was totally relaxing. Beautiful music

blended with the Texas night air. The orchestra consisted of Austin high school students recommended by the natives. Some picturesque "old" buildings and cabins bear dates as recent as 1971, but the town's historic air is authentic.

Lectures and seminars are scheduled throughout the summer season.

Next Friday, Sylvia Rabinof and James Dick will perform a Duo-Piano Concert featuring works by Bach, Brahms and Corigliano. Saturday at 8:15 p.m. guest artists will be Young-uck Kim, violin; Yo-Yo Ma, cello; and Dick, piano. This concert will feature works by Mozart, Bach and Beethoven.

Admission for all concerts is \$3.50 for adults and \$2 for children. Round Top is located between La Grange and Brenham. For further information and schedules write P.O. Box 89, Round Top, Tex. 78954.



Battalion photo by Glenna Whitley

# Businesses to be helped by robots and computers

Texas A&M University engineers think they can use computers and robots to get the bugs out of your business.

The whole idea is to build manufacturing plants within the "mind" of the computer where options can be added and taken away within split seconds. Everything from the floor plan to all the machinery can be juggled in the manager's imagination until he comes up with this perfect combination of economy, speed and efficiency of operation.

The idea is impressive enough to get the National Science Foundation and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station to put up a quarter-million dollars for its formulation while a consortium of 12 East Texas companies has been formed to allow the application on their manufacturing systems in hopes of improving their productivity through the use of the Texas A&M package. It is named GEMS for General Manufacturing Simulator.

"Increased productivity is the nation's biggest problem," explained Dr. Don Phillips, one of the project heads. "And, to do this we need new techniques."

Still, even with all this, the researchers think they can add yet another twist. Once the library of computer programs for the various manufacturing processes has been set up, it can be related to the amount of energy use.

"We can determine the amount of energy every process requires and then model the plant to keep energy needs to a minimum," Dr. Thomas concluded.

- ✓ Which work centers will become bottlenecks?
  - ✓ What effects will delay in delivery of raw materials have on product shipping schedules?
  - ✓ What are the most effective inventory levels for smooth assembly of several interrelated product lines?
  - ✓ What is the estimated cost of material handling?
  - ✓ Can proposed automated equipment (such as robots) achieve desired production output?
  - ✓ What input will new product lines have on factory workloads?
  - ✓ When should protective maintenance be scheduled?
- "The beauty of the project is that the program can be used by large manufacturing as well as the small. By the time it is developed for use in the nation it will be in effect in

program is that it's designed for use by someone who has no knowledge of computers and computer language. What's used instead is a picture of the manufacturing system in the form of a network diagram. The pieces can be pulled out, added and moved around with the computer telling the differences in production and costs that result," he said.

There is a multitude of small to medium-sized companies that deal with non-standard manufacturing activities. They are the subcontractors to the industrial giants so they need to know how these different jobs are related and how to get them to fit together for maximum productivity and minimum costs," Phillips said.

"What is needed is software (computer program) that will allow managers to study their problems," Dr. Phillips pointed out. "A way to take this look is through a digital computer in which we can build a representation of the system as a model. We tell the parameters to the computer and it mimics the activities of a real plant."

The building of the program would consist of making a library of computer programs that will describe every possible manufacturing process. With this library plugged into a computer, a representative of an industry could come in and pull out the appropriate parts and build a complete plant on the computer.

"Then they can play games with the layout, the object being to find new arrangements to give greater productivity," noted Dr. Richard Thomas, associate dean of engineering at Texas A&M, who was one of the moving forces behind the inception of the project. "The product can be put on any large computer in the nation."

When it is finished we will notify Texas manufacturers that this service is available and they can use Texas A&M's computer if theirs is insufficient," Thomas added.

"The really novel part of the pro-

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