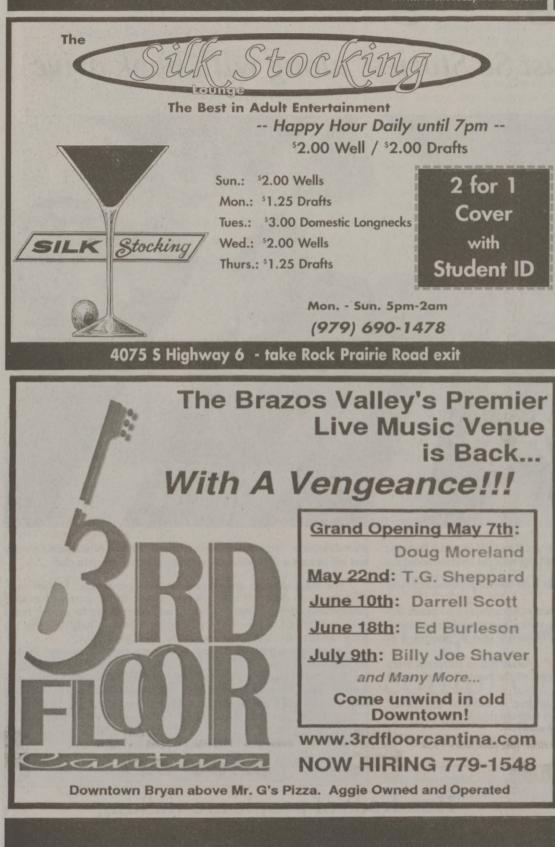
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By Christina Tiechman THE BATTALION

This weekend the newly-founded Texas A&M Orchestra will be lifting its melodic sounds into the air at the Memorial Student Center.

The organization was founded during the 2003 fall semester, and its members are working hard to get the word out to their fellow students. The orchestra now consists of about 60 members, including undergraduate and graduate students. This spring will bring their first Spring Concert.

Robert A. Kenefick, a professor in the A&M physics department since 1965, and Paul Sikes, associate director of bands at A&M, are faculty advisers to the TAMU

Orchestra. Cynthia Lin, a junior biomedical sciences major us president of the TAMU Orchestra.

"My freshman year (at A & M), we started

an ensemble which included seven people," said Cynthia Lin, president of the TAMU student orchestra and junior biomedical sciences major. "Last year we decided we wanted to become a bigger group so we applied to be a student organization."

Lin said the ensemble was called Philyra, which is Greek for "love of music," and that the group was fashioned to perform as a string orchestra with instruments such as violins, violas, string basses and cellos. Soon it evolved into an orchestra displaying a mixture of string and band instruments.

Brad Cawye, the orchestra's conductor, graduated in December 2003 from A&M with a degree in mathematics and minor in music.

"Brad works with Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra," Lin said. "He is applying for graduate school in orchestral conducting."

Zachary Olson, a sophomore physics major, who plays the viola for the TAMU Orchestra said some of the members interacted with each other before the group was formed.

"There had been a couple of string quartets and a couple of us knew each other from the Aggie Music Forum," Olson said.

Before the orchestra was formally united, there were several unofficial meetings, and talk of an orchestra starting was spread by word-ofmouth to those interested. "I was glad to join (the orchestra) has Im had played for nine years and really enjoy: that i Olson said.

Olson said all the members of the only are hard working and take pride in their ma accomplishments.

"It's just great how everybody takes mine and is so involved," Olson said.

Elizabeth Wong, the group's librarian, a volunteer for TAMU Orchestra said her take a violin player is greatly improved due in time spent in the orchestra.

"TAMU Orchestra aims to provide its me bers an opportunity to improve and use to musical abilities through large and small g practices and performances," Wong said. Lin said some d

pieces audiences hear performed ins "St. Paul's Suite String Orches Movements 1 and Gustav H "Nimrod"

"Enigma Variations" "Op. 36" by Edward & and several other inspiring compositions. Wong said the orchestra plays a varies

musical styles. "Although orchestras are usually assore of with classical music, they play a wide range musical styles from pop to jazz, modername

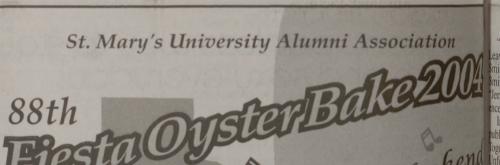
urally classical," Wong said. Stephen Goodman, a sophomore biomet sciences major, saw the orchestra perform in concert. Because several of Goodman's fin are officers in the group, he had heard about orchestra when it was beginning last fall.

"I thought it was unique that there was orchestra on campus and that it was compose students, and neat that the conductor was an dent as well," Goodman said.

Goodman said there are many things people to look forward to at the TAN Orchestra concert.

"I encourage anyone who is a fan of class music or who wants to see what the rest it student population is doing to go," Goodman

The TAMU Orchestra's concert will be weekend April 3, at 5 p.m. in the Mem Student Center Flag Room and a silent aut will take place before the concert at 4μ Admission is free.



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