

Arts & Entertainment

Clarinetist, quartet together debut in Secrest

World-famous musicians perform the classics

By Elizabeth Hoyle
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Two musical greats will come together for the first time in the upcoming Secrest Series event March 20. Clarinetist David Shifrin will perform in Brendle Recital Hall with the Muir String Quartet, a group who has performed at the university once before as part of the Secrest Series in October 1997. But never before have the quartet and the clarinetist performed together.

The concert will feature Mozart's *Quartet in E-flat Major*, Debussy's *Quartet in G Minor* and Brahms' *Quintet in B Minor*. The highly respected musical ability of both soloist and quartet precedes them, as they have both performed across the United States in other chamber and orchestra series and on international tours.

As violinists Peter Zazofsky and newcomer Lucia Lin, violist Steven Ansell and cellist Michael Reynolds bring the Muir String Quartet into its 19th year, they strive to continue the tradition begun by its founders as one of the world's most powerful and insightful ensembles. Zazofsky, a Boston native, had already established himself as one of America's outstanding soloists before joining the quartet in 1987. He studied at

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the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute and spent five summers at the Marlboro Music Festival to perfect the talents that allowed him to become the first violinist of the group.

In August 1998, the group added Lin, also a violinist and active soloist and chamber musician. She began her musical career at the age of 11 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She has performed in concerts and competitions worldwide in addition to serving as the concertmaster of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the London Symphony Or-

chestra. Hailing from Champaign, Ill., she cites Paul Rolland, Dorothy Delay and Louis Krasner as important musical influences in her life.

One of the founding members of the quartet, Ansell is also a graduate of the Curtis Institute. He maintains his skills on the viola by holding professorships at several universities, recording albums and being a guest of the Da Camera Society of Houston and the Boston Chamber Music Society.

He also attends summer festivals and holds a principal violin position of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Also a founding member, cellist Reynolds tours the musical centers of North America and Europe and has earned international recognition from performances of Bach's solo suites. Reynolds is also a graduate of the Curtis Institute and continued his studies with Karen Tuttle and George Neikrug. When he's not performing, Reynolds enjoys writing and fly-fishing. The quartet's namesake,



Photos courtesy of News Services

The Muir String Quartet and clarinetist David Shifrin will perform together for the first time as part of the university's Secrest Series 8 p.m. March 20 in Brendle Recital Hall.

John Muir, was also the founder of the Sierra Club. In keeping with his environmental concerns, the group donates proceeds from its Eco-Classics CDs to environmental and conservation organizations. Shifrin, the soloist of the night's performance, has performed with many other acclaimed symphonies and orchestras and is hailed as being "unsurpassed as a clarinet soloist" by *Clarinet Magazine*. After a nation-wide

search, Shifrin was appointed artistic director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in 1992. He also is the recipient of a number of musical awards: an Avery Fisher Career Grant, a Solo Recitalist Fellowship, a Record of the Year award and Grammy nominations.

"The sound he produces is a revelation in just how beautifully the clarinet can be played," said a review in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. While currently a professor at Yale University, he has also served on the faculty of the Juilliard School.

The Muir String Quartet and David Shifrin will perform as part of the Secrest Series 8 p.m. March 20 in Brendle Recital Hall. Tickets are free for students, staff and faculty and are available from the Information Desk in Benson University Center.

New *Carrie* barely causes a rage

By Natalie Duggins
U-wire

In my experience, I have come across a few fundamental rules that govern most horror films. First and foremost, there's the rule that the sequel is never better than the original.

Second, no matter how often you scream at the screen saying, "don't go in there," there's a high likelihood that the character is going to go in.

And last, most thrillers contain some inevitable moral conclusion that can typically be summarized by some tired old cliché. But alas, some things are simply meant to entertain.

World Championship Wrestling will never surpass baseball as the nation's favorite pastime, but for entertainment purposes, it will suffice. Puff Daddy and Mase will never be legacy of the hip-hop genre, but in the mean time, we can all enjoy dancing to it.

Some things just aren't meant to be representatives of an art form — sometimes,

people just want to be entertained. So, maybe *The Rage: Carrie 2* won't be up for any Oscar nominations (and actually the lack of trendy, pop sensations make it a long shot for the MTV Movie Awards too).

And perhaps the movie does absolutely nothing to distinguish itself from the other clichéd horror films of recent memory. But as far as entertainment value goes *Carrie 2* manages to captivate audiences for the duration of the film.

From the moment Rachel (Emily Bergl) witnessed authorities cart her schizophrenic mother (J. Smith-Cameron) off to the local asylum, she becomes a loner. She lives in a "self-imposed exile," shutting out everyone except her best friend Lisa (Mena Suvari) and her dog, Walter. Pale-faced and clad in dark clothing, Rachel and Lisa are the school's outcasts and the butt of numerous jokes by the cheerleaders and football players.

Lisa's world illuminates when Eric (Zachery Ty Bryan) shows interest in her and is conversely destroyed when he takes her virginity and then nonchalantly walks away. Depressed by the rejection, Lisa commits suicide by throwing herself off one of the school buildings.

Following the precedence set by Jamie

Lee Curtis last year in *Halloween: H2O*, Amy Irving reprises her role from the original *Carrie*, this time portraying Sue Snell, school guidance counselor.

(On a sidenote, I've always been curious about the thought behind such movies. Jason kills hundreds of people at a campground, so, of course, let's go back again next year. A demonic baby doll murders dozens, so let's keep producing the same doll. And in *Carrie 2*... Sue Snell witnessed 73 people get killed, so, of course, I should go back. See the logic here? Me either.)

Snell tries to comfort Rachel after the suicide to little avail and investigates the possibility that Rachel may have the ability to move objects with her mind.

Rachel finds comfort and love in Jesse (Jason London, the twin brother of Jeremy London from *Party of Five*). The unlikely tandem — Jesse, the clean-cut, son of a used car salesman and football star and Rachel — causes dissension among the popular crowd. The clique constructs a plan for revenge against Rachel, exposing her greatest vulnerability. Her newfound love for Jesse. And, that's when all hell breaks loose.

The main difference between the original *Carrie* and the sequel is the lead character. Whereas Carrie White was a vulnerable wallflower, Rachel is a strong young woman who chooses isolation over popularity. Emily Bergl definitely wins over crowds with her film debut as Rachel, but it's obvious that she is far too talented to continue with such roles. However, the movie does lack a few things — mainly originality.

Parts of *Carrie 2* seem like carbon copies of the original and the inclusion of the telephone call scenario from *Scream* wasn't entertaining either. Conversely, this movie does maintain a degree of universality, which I think most young people can relate to. Minus the whole psycho, telekinesis thing, every high school has a person like Rachel, whose "hard knock life" has forced her to build up a wall around herself.

Every high school has people like Eric and Mark (Dylan Bruno) who prey upon girls anxious to gain status in the high school hierarchy. *The Rage: Carrie 2* may not go down in film history as the greatest flick of all time, nor will it ever surpass the legacy created by Sissy Spacek in the original, but it does entertain.

Natalie Duggins writes for The Technician, the student newspaper of N. C. State University.

Couple performs Japanese music

Old Gold and Black Staff Report

Some unusual instruments will be coming on campus March 26 as part of a performance sponsored by the Asian studies program, the music department and the Year of Globalization and Diversity. Japanese koto and shakuhachi music will be performed by Janet and Clarence Ledbetter, professionals in the art of Japanese music.

The Ledbetters, natives of Hillsboro, are part of the musical ensemble Circle in the Round formed in 1980. The members of the group lived in Tokyo for eight years studying and performing the country's traditional music. The music they learned so much about will be featured in the concert.

The shakuhachi, a five-hole, bamboo root-end flute, and the koto, a 6-foot, 13-string long board zither, are the focus of the music for this interesting Japanese music concert.

Clarence studied the shakuhachi and

earned his teaching license on the instrument, and he then went on to pass the master teacher's examination and became the third foreigner to reach this level in the Tozan Shakuhachi Ruy school's 100-year history.

He also has a wider musical background in recorder, baritone horn and percussion instruments in jazz, Latin and African music.

His wife Janet studied the koto while living in Japan.

She has taken 10 years of piano study and done significant research in ethnomusicology, the study of the world's music. She also practices law specializing in international business, real estate and art.

The Ledbetters will perform this Japanese music 7:30 p.m. March 26 in Carswell 111.

The performance is free and open to the public. An informal reception will follow the concert. For more information, call Ext. 5788.



Courtesy of MGM Studios

A strong-willed Rachel in the sequel replaces a softer Carrie from the first film, but this does little to save its flaws.



Courtesy of News Services

Janet and Clarence Ledbetter, experts in the art of Japanese shakuhachi and koto music, will perform 7:30 p.m. March 26.