

Chamber Music... Grabs a New Style

By ANN SANGER
Leisuretime Editor

There was an era when a chamber music society evoked images of elderly ladies, mink stoles, Brahms and string quartets.

Not any more.

Consider the Colorado Springs Chamber Music Society.

Organized here officially in December, 1971, it's first shocker is a membership of 55 musicians, based out of Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Denver, expert in a "wired combination of instruments" and epitomizing the exact opposite of "Sunday parlor entertainment."

The sound, despite the name, is devised to appeal to the young and the old, to the classicist and the country music fan. Specializing in everything from the classical and baroque to semi-jazz and "super modern," the orchestra is a "very modern thinking group," aided by music written for and tailored to its style.

The look is bright . . . bright clothes, mod style . . . informal.

The approach is relaxed, sprinkled with spontaneous humor, musical explanations, personal comments, instant musician self-analysis, and audience interplay.

The society is professional, and survives on its devotion to music, now proven through four

public performances given here over a span of time extending from February, 1972, when it boasted only 13 members playing to an average audience of 100, to the present 55 members who played before a recent audience of 350.

Feb. 24, the society will launch a concentrated public appearance series beginning with a live broadcast on KKFM, 96.5 p.m. on radio program KKFM, FM, open to the public free in the theatre of the First Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave.

The public will get its chance to interact at two free concerts scheduled at Armstrong Hall on the Colorado College campus at 8 p.m. March 26 and at 8 p.m. April 30, under the sponsorship of the CC Music Department and Dr. Albert Seay.

Each program will be entirely different. Each features music rarely or never heard live due to their degree of difficulty.

John Fetler, music critic for the Gazette Telegraph wrote of their May, 1972, performance at the First United Methodist Church, "What a pleasure to hear the members of the Colorado Springs Chamber Music Society display their musical knowledge and expertise. . . We hope (Conductor Michael Gibson's) work with the group will serve as a foundation for the development of his musical conceptions. The . . . activities are an excellent contribution to the community's musical culture

and the only wish is that this music can be given a wider audience."

In May, 1973, he termed their next public performance as "certainly the best group of its kind in town, probably in this part of the country. . . refreshing as May itself."

That was the beginning, with heavy emphasis on "fun," "excellence," "innovation."

musical director Gibson, a mem-

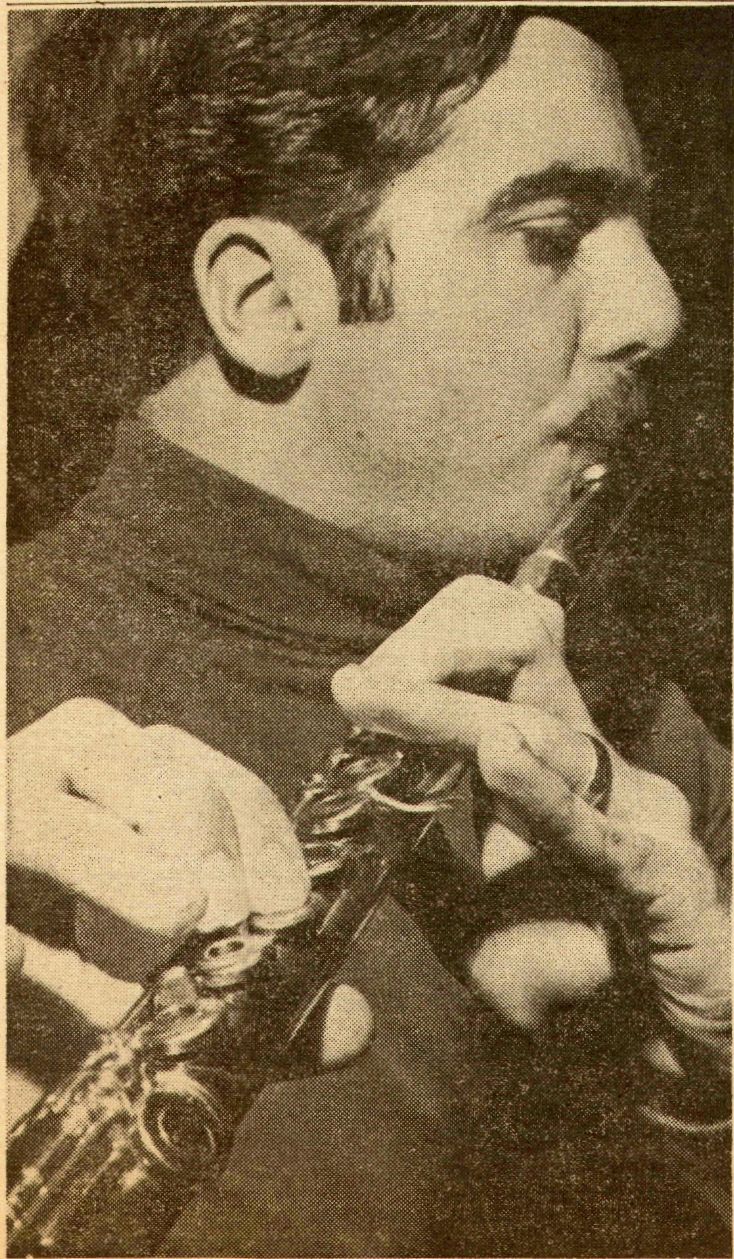
ber of the Air Force Academy Band, formerly of the NORAD Band, the man who formed and keeps the growing group together finds an explanation for the industry and enthusiasm of a group of professionals, non-paid, who will drive from anywhere in a 120-mile radius to rehearse 15 to 20 times for a Colorado Springs Chamber Music Society Concert.

"It's all for fun, for music, for the community. Musicians refuse to come to a rehearsal without a concert to work for, to improve quality. They love to play for other people."

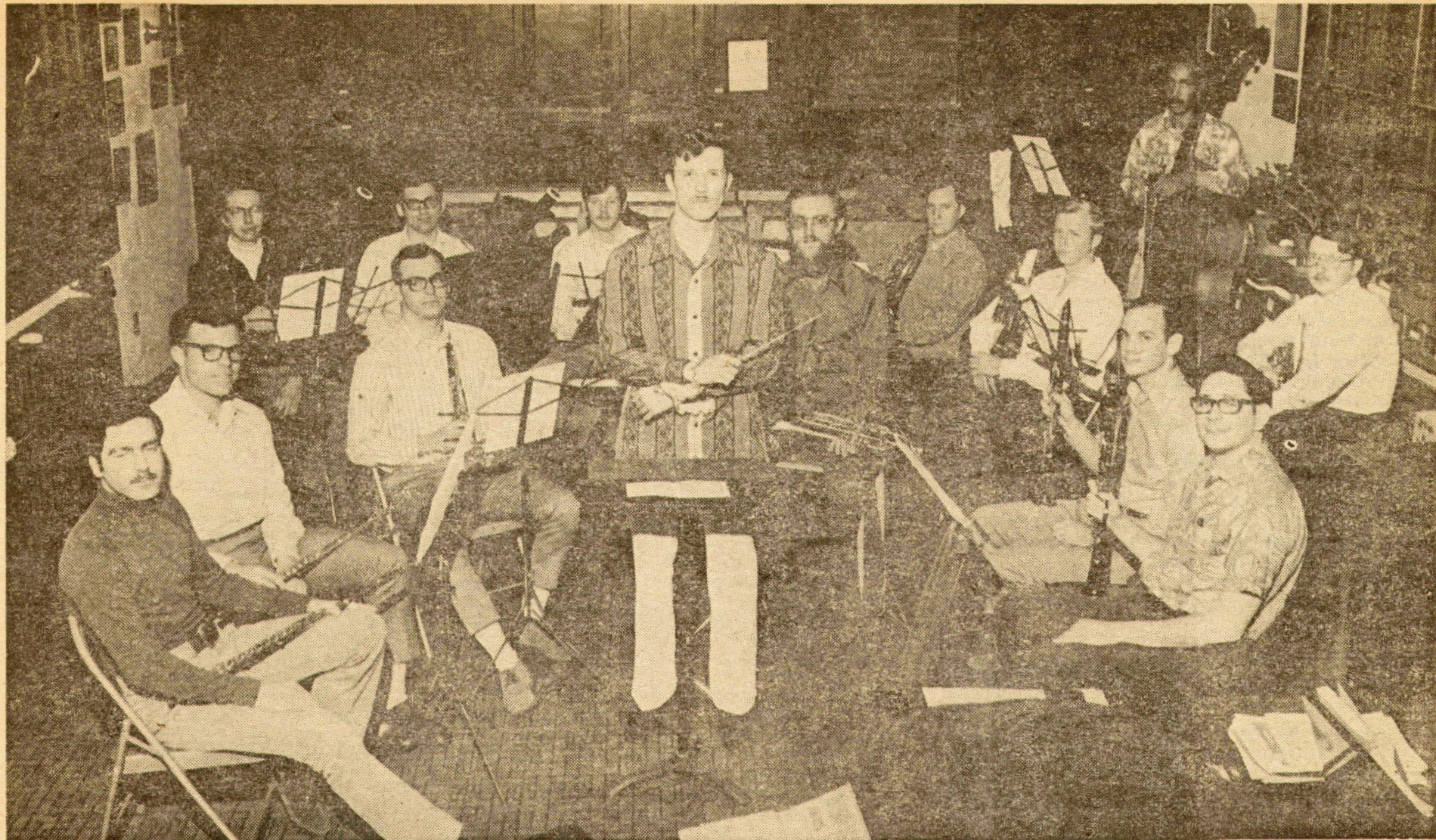
The society, members explain, tries to please the average listener, and at the same time improve the listener's ability to hear. . . in time.

The live performance versus a recorded performance is the key. . . a psyche.

"Live Performances," says Gibson, are exciting to the listener and the performer. It is (Continued on next page)



LOVING EVERY MINUTE — Bond Anderson, on flute, is one of 55 musicians from the Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Denver area who contribute time, money, and effort to an orchestral effort deceptively called The Colorado Springs Chamber Music Society. Performing for area audience free, the group takes on the most difficult of music just for a chance to do it.



REHEARSING A 14-PART PIECE — Dressed informally and looking just as they look when they perform, 14 members of the Colorado Springs Chamber Music Society take free time from their regular jobs to rehearse one piece from upcoming sessions for the public,

"Strauss Serenade In E Flat." Michael Gibson, pictured center, is the director for the group, a youthful, energetic and very 'up-town' composition of talent. Most are professionals from groups elsewhere, united by a love for music.