

Fredericton Chamber



University Secretary Dugald Blue playing the violin



The string section of the orchestra rehearsing Schubert's Unfinished Symphony



Nancy Stevenson, a 1st year Science student, practising the clarinet



Oboist Greta Vanderleeden



Graham Young, another UNB student, plays the viola

What do a university student, a professor, a former member of the National Arts Center Orchestra, a government employee, and a Girl Guide group leader all have in common? They are all members of the Fredericton Chamber Orchestra.

The group began about three years ago as a casual gathering of amateur musicians eager to play together. Prof. Colin Mailer, who had participated in amateur orchestras in the U.S., provided the experience and enthusiasm necessary to expand the group. The first major concert was held in April of 1976, consisting of portions of Handel's Messiah, with the Christ Church Cathedral choir.

Since then, concerts have been given at least twice a year, often in conjunction with choirs. Highlights have been the performance of Bach's Cantata No. 140, Handel's Coronation Anthems, Handel's Messiah and the Vivaldi Gloria.

The group has a new director this year, Helen Gollings, and a new coach for woodwinds, Valerie Lidstone. Miss Gollings has just received a B.A. in music and English literature from Birmingham University, England. She holds certificates of distinction in advanced flute, piano, and violin, and has performed in many orchestras and choirs. Presently, she is studying education at UNB, and plans to become a music teacher. While she has conducted in classes at university, this will be her first experience as the director of a chamber orchestra. She stated that this was a "tremendous chance to gain experience," and that her main aim was to conduct "intensive rehearsals." She said that music in Fredericton is "fairly promising, but it has a long way to go."