



Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

STUDIUM UNIVERSALE



THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA (CANADA)

J. Kirchbaum

CHAMBER SINGERS



EUROPEAN TOUR 1987

Werke europäischer und nordamerikanischer Komponisten

Mittwoch, 20. Mai 1987
um 20 Uhr in der Schloßkirche

Der Eintritt ist frei.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA CHAMBER SINGERS EUROPEAN TOUR - 1987

THE PERSONNEL:

SOPRANOS:

Anne Bateman
Sandra Brown
Karen Mang
Deanna Reschke
Karen Pattullo
Karen Wiltse

ALTOS:

Nancy Cox
Sharon Ferne
Maureen Garry
Patti Thorpe
Hilary Plaschka

TENORS:

Mark Bell
Donald MacDonald
Benjamin Pease
Bill Plant

BASSES:

Brian Berryman
Fred Hanes
Colin McCarlie
John Oberhoffner
Allan Thorpe

CONDUCTOR: Bruce More

HUNGARIAN TRANSLATOR: Connie More

TOUR MASCOT: Alexis More

THE ILLUSTRATIONS:

Benjamin Pease

THE PHOTOS:

Karen Pattullo and Bill Plant

THE DIARIES:

A page from each singer's diary for a specific day on the tour follows. Little has been edited in order to show the range of perspectives (from Sister Theresa to Attila the Hun) and the various writing styles (from Wordsworth to stream of unconsciousness.)

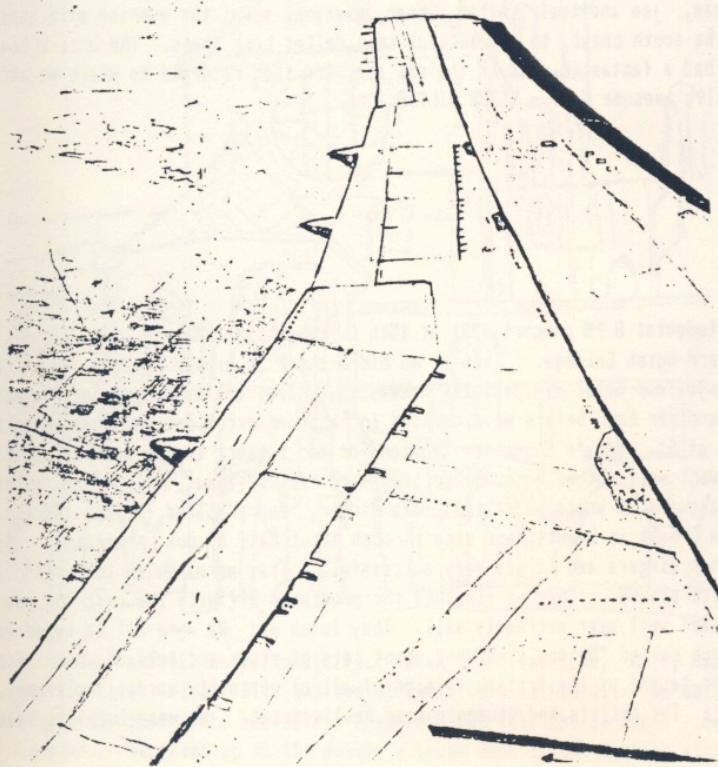
THE RECORDINGS:

Patti and Allan Thorpe. A 90 minute composite cassette tape taken from most tour venues including the entire NCRV Dutch Radio broadcast.



THE DIARIES:

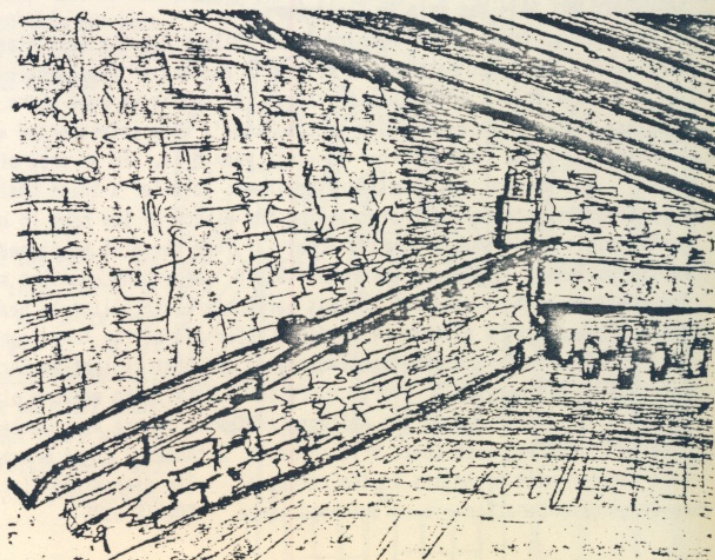
MONDAY, MAY 11 AND TUESDAY MAY 12 - Flight from Victoria/Vancouver to London, Heathrow; Bus trip to Taunton



- The longest day! The Mores wake up in a motel in Everett, Washington, (shades of other Chamber Singers' tours). The Gestapo at the Canadian border turn out to be pussycats, helping our day immensely. We drop our two vehicles and a year of accumulated stuff off at my brother's in North Vancouver and out to the airport. Will everybody show up? Will the new singers get on with the old singers? Will the music come together? Will the plane's wings grow hair? My mind whirls with questions, some sane, some not. There they are!: Patti, Alan, John, Deanna, Sam - I can feel myself starting to relax for the first time in several weeks. (If I sing tenor, we could have a quartet.) Check-in, much animated talk and then.... there's Brian, Anne, Maureen, Bill and 3 (count 'em) THREE Karens. It's definitely beginning to feel like a choir again! More excited conversation (this group is going to top even last year's group for energy.) On to the plane, the usual stuff, slept entirely through the movie (I hear I didn't miss much). Landing at Heathrow on Tuesday morning - it really doesn't feel like tomorrow at all. There's the rest of them, EVERY SINGLE DAMN ONE OF THEM! O.k., More it's up to you now - no excuses. Onto a bus and off to Taunton, with a stop for a few moments of silent prayer at Stonehenge. Arrive at Richard Huish (pronounced Hue - ish) College. Meet Chris Banks, a delightful and extremely well organized "Brit" music teacher at the College (grade 11 and 12 equivalent). Off to our billets. Chris and Mair Banks have a good sized house and 4 kids. At first I wonder how I'm ever going to make it with all the noise, but after about an hour, the love and humour that comes out of it all makes me feel very much at home. Real kindred spirits, the Bankses. It's going to be a great tour! - BRUCE MORE.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 - 6 hours of rehearsals at College; Pub Evening

Day started early - about 4 am for me, as I couldn't sleep. Insomnia provided a neat introduction to the British Isles! Cereal for breakfast, then off to Richard Huish College for rehearsal. It's so good being back with some of the old choir! Although strenuous, the choir rehearsal went well and we took a much deserved break from 12:15 to 1:30. Spent the time in town center cashing traveller's cheques and trying unsuccessfully to become accustomed to traffic charging at you from the opposite direction. More rehearsal from 1:30-4:15, then exploring downtown until 5:15. Dinner at home, then a blowout of an evening at a local pub, with the Michael Huish Chamber Singers, drinking whatever and playing skittles, an ancient game of 9-pin bowling with crooked floor, balls (and players by the time we got around to playing). Met some great people and the food (sandwiches and appetizers) were o.k. Beer and their world-famous cider were stars of the evening. Everybody seemed quickly established into a state of joviality which carried through the evening - hangovers anticipated - JOHN OBERHOFFNER.



THURSDAY, MAY 14 - 6 hours of rehearsals

- Awoke to another green Taunton morning, somewhat wet, but beautiful. Today we had our morning rehearsal at the Albermarle Centre, which was just a few minutes walk from the city centre. A usual rehearsal with a few Tai Chi warmups led by Bruce and our first crack at singing "Now I Walk in Beauty", while walking at the same time! SCARY MONSTERS! At lunch time, we had a quick hike back to Richard Huish College, making it just in time for one of their great lunches (Sharon and I were almost late because we had to find a place to buy a curling iron. Both of ours blew up the same morning!) Had another rehearsal in the afternoon, then went home with our billets for a wonderful hour of scones, clotted cream, jam and tea. After dinner, everyone spent the evening with their billets, many went to local pubs. Our billets took us to the south coast, to a beautiful town called Lyme Regis. The entire town is built on the side of a hill and looks onto the ocean. We had a fantastic walk in the sea air, and then returned to where we were staying and headed to a nearby pub for a quick cider. A totally awesome day! - KAREN WILTSE.

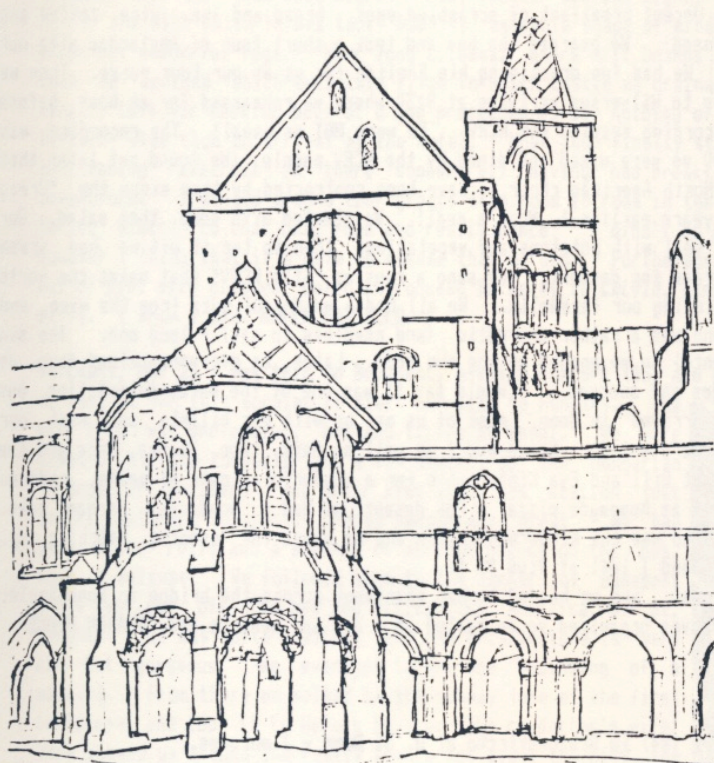
FRIDAY, MAY 15 - rehearse 4 hours; 10 AM concert (#1)- 400 students; 8 PM concert (#2) at 15th C. church: St. Mary's

Today we began as usual with a rehearsal at 9:00 AM at Richard Huish College. Then at we did a short 20 minute concert for the students. They were a great audience and seemed to really enjoy our music - especially Keewaydin. (They all walked around singing "Killaloo" for the rest of the day.) We then rehearsed for another hour before we dismissed for another excellent and cheap lunch at the school cafeteria. The afternoon was spent rehearsing at St. Mary's Church in Taunton for our concert in the evening. The church was very cold and we all froze, but the rehearsal went well and we were all getting very excited about doing our first evening concert. We dispersed with our billets for home at about 4:30 where we rested, ate dinner, and prepared for our concert. It began fairly promptly and we started the program with "Now I Walk in Beauty" and sang through about half of our programme. We did the Magnificat double chorus with the Richard Huish Chamber Singers and it was very successful. They were really good for a high school choir. Their string quartet and brass choir also played. Then we finished the programme off with the rest of our music, ending of course with "Feller from Fortune". The concert went over extremely well. They loved us! We were all so hyped up and ready to party so all the billets took us to a nearby pub called "Maison Arms" and drank lots of cider and lots of beer and generally just had a great time. I met two English blokes who taught us the British version of all of our dirty words. (eg. rumpy, bumpy, wanger, gaup, dosser - figure them out for yourself!) The billets and students were really great. We were lucky to have been able to stay with such great people! - SHARON FERNE.

SATURDAY, MAY 16 - bus-trip to Canterbury.

We gathered in front of the Richard Huish College for the last time, and after a rousing chorus of "It's Chris" (Chris Banks), we were off. The first part of our trip with bus driver David Joyce was on limited access motorways, where we continued to marvel at the brilliant colors of the countryside. Of course we knew where the green was coming from, since we'd received a fair amount of moisture too! Fields of yellow canola (rape!) were interspersed with horses, sheep and cattle. Shortly after 11 AM we turned onto a narrow 2-lane road in order to visit Venn Mill, in an area of mills which had been run by Bruce's maternal ancestors for 200 years. The current residents were not home, so after a brief hesitation, the 23 of us tried to trample as little as possible while exploring the grounds and photographing the window of the room in which Bruce's mother had been born. We then witnessed a strange juxtaposition of energy sources - not far from the mill we passed the Didcot Nuclear Power Plant! En route to our lunch stop at Henley-on-Thames (pub lunch or grocery store, depending upon the size of one's wallet), we listened to most of the recording from the previous night's concert. It was particularly thrilling to hear the English pieces while exploring the country of their origin. Most of us caught a glimpse of Windsor Castle and of the Kent County Fair before the bus was forced to negotiate the narrow winding streets of Canterbury. We finally located our host contact at Christ Church College, Grenville Hancox, who was searching for our late bus on his bicycle. Everyone scattered briefly to explore places like the famous cathedral or to exchange money (at Safeway, no less!). Supper was at the college cafeteria, where we consoled ourselves over the lack of an evening concert. Most then went home to an evening with their British hosts, although 7 of us braved the chilly air to attend the concert that upstaged us - the St. John Passion with orchestra in the cathedral. The dimensions of the enormous church are such that the music arrived at the rear in waves of reverberation - a unique experience. - CONNIE MORE

SUNDAY, MAY 17 - day off in Canterbury and London. Dinner in Canterbury at "Gandhi's"



there was a small chapel upstairs. When I arrived home, Helly had a pot of stew on. I filled my stomach and continued on my tour of the city. I met Bill and Ben at Canterbury Cathedral. We walked amongst the tombs of the archbishops, kings and dignitaries, ventured down into the silent crypt and out into the gardens. Ben stayed to sketch and Bill and I decided to continue looking around. We ended up at the Weaver's house next to the dunking stool. The dunking ritual was the ancient test for witches. Those who were dunked and drowned were not witches, of course, while those who survived must be witches and therefore suffered a worse death by burning or stoning. (Good old English logic.) We rented a small rowboat, close by, and successfully manouvered the boat downstream. The trick, however was getting back. After wrestling with the oars and playing bumper-boats with the locals, we took to the land and walked until we got to the monument that overlooks the city. A bit tired, we headed back to find Ben at the Cathedral, but he had disappeared so we decided to look for "Gandhi's" restaurant and then go back to Helly's for tea. That evening the choir gathered at "Gandhi's" courtesy of the "Hot Dog Lady." It was very "curry" but left me hungry. ANNE BATEMAN

MONDAY, MAY 18 - bus and ferry trip Amsterdam

Had to meet at the ridiculous hour of 7 A.M. The bus ride to the ferry was uneventful, but we almost left Karen and Mark in the luggage compartment of the coach. Had a rehearsal on board on the way to Zeebrugge, and Bruce took the title in the hearts championship. We drove to Amsterdam and arrived at the infamous Bob's Youth Hostel. We had to climb about 300 stairs with all our luggage. The rooms were OK, but it was so cold, people wore all their clothes to bed. We all went our separate ways for dinner, but there was a party in the girls' room afterwards. Bruce and Patti told terrible jokes and Karen and Sandra told us about being propositioned by fat, wrinkly prostitutes in the red light district. - NANCY COX.

Helly and Richard Langley own a beautiful 11th C. row house in Canterbury. I awoke in a room with the original wooden beams lining the walls and the original fireplace (so big that you could roast a whole pig in it) beside me. Apparently the house had been renovated twice, once in the 18th C and again about 1977. The original doorways are about 5 ft. tall compared with the 7 ft. 18th C. doorways that open onto the second floor addition. (I'm sure Richard, who stands well over 6 ft. tall has fun with those.) The children have a few pets including 2 cats, 3 rats, 1 hamster, 1 or 2 rabbits. It's hard to keep track. The choir rehearsed at 9 today. The rehearsal was short to allow the majority of the group to visit London for the day. A few people, however, chose to stay in Canterbury. Bill, Ben & I set out to find the sights. We wandered through Kings College, a very old and prestigious privately run school, just as classes were changing. The buildings are very old and the students are mostly boys so the few girls, cloaked in black, looked almost like witches moving through the sea of black suits. The odd professor stood socializing in the courtyard, dressed in a full gown and hood. It was a trip through time. We ended up in one of the libraries, a small room, where a tiger head and hide was displayed on the wall and beside it a plaque commemorating the man who "downed" the great creature on some exotic safari. I, in my usual ravenous state, decided to return to my billets for lunch. On the way, I came across St. Frances Hospital(?) It, like most of the buildings in downtown Canterbury, is a very old structure. It must date from the 11th or 12th Century. The ceilings were coved and



TUESDAY, MAY 19 - bus trip to Hilversum, then Bonn. Radio recording for NCRV in Saint Vitus Church. (#3)



We awoke this morning after actually surviving a night at Bob's Youth Hostel. They served us a pretty decent breakfast of scrambled eggs, bread and jam, juice, coffee and tea. I was impressed! We boarded the bus and took a short tour of Amsterdam with our bus driver, Jon. He had fun practising his English for us as our tour guide. Then we continued to drive to Hilversum arriving at 9:30 where we rehearsed for an hour before beginning our recording session for NCRV. We were HOT as usual! The recording was excellent. At 1:00 we were wined and dined by the NCRV people. (We found out later that we were the first North American choir to have been contracted by them since the "Bregg Smith Singers" 12 years earlier.) What a meal! We started with soup, then salad. Our main course was veal with potatoes and vegetables, then to top it off we had fresh strawberries and cream for dessert. We sang a rousing "It's NCRV" that makes the world go round" before bidding our farewells. We all had a wonderful buzz from the wine, and the bus ride to Bonn was a rather energetic (and needless to say) - loud one. The sun was shining (for once) so we opened up the sun roof. Later, as everyone calmed down, we gave back massages and snoozed. I would say it was one of the more interesting bus trips. When we arrived in Bonn, most of us met up with our billets and went our separate ways for the evening. Karen and I as well as Mark, Don, Deanna, Anne and the Mores all ended up at Bill and Eva Kinderman's for a wonderful dinner of meats, cheeses and bread as well as homemade pizza. For dessert we had a wonderful German cake. Everyone was glad to see the Kindermans again and we spent the evening catching up.

Their home is outside of Bonn in a beautiful wooded area. Karen and I left at 9:00 PM to meet up with our billet Marianne who had been at a choir rehearsal, and we headed to her apartment across the bridge in Bonn-Beule, another part of the city. It was late by the time we got ourselves organized so we called it a day and went to bed. **SHARON FERNE**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 - Sight seeing in Bonn. Rehearsal and concert (#4) in Schlosskirche at U. of Bonn - 7 encores.

Well, so far Bonn seems great (We've only been here one day!) Our hosts are really great also. Some of the hosts are from the Canadian embassy, so at least we all speak English. It seems funny to be in Germany and eating like we're in Canada (2% milk and everything). We had a rehearsal this morning at the Schlosskirche. It's a really nice church; it lets everything ring. The rehearsal went well (a foreshadow of tonight's concert which I will get to soon). Everyone went their own way after lunch at the Mensa. I think a lot of people went shopping or just wandered. There are a couple of open markets here that are really interesting. Also a lot of the streets here are pedestrian streets and there are millions of little shops and boutiques. The churches are gorgeous too. The majority of the group met around 3 PM to go to Beethovenhaus. It's quite an exciting place. Lots to see and read about. Unfortunately it was all in German but I'm sure that for those of us who could understand, it was great. Actually with Bill Kinderman there, almost any questions we had could be answered. After the tour, we split up again. Some people went to the Mensa again for dinner while others went back to their hosts places to get ready for the concert. The CONCERT was awesome. There was a comfortable sized audience and they were all so enthusiastic! I don't know if we sang exceptionally well or not but the audience sure thought so! We did 5 encores (all the repertoire we were allowed to sing in the church). Then we took them all outside and sang the 2 humorous choruses. Even after we'd sung through our entire repertoire, they still wanted more. It was a very exhilarating experience, having people enjoy the performance so much. We joined our host choir at a bar for a few drinks and had a really good time finding out about them, the University and the city. **MAUREEN GARRY**

THURSDAY, MAY 21 - Sight seeing in Bonn. Overnight train to Vienna.

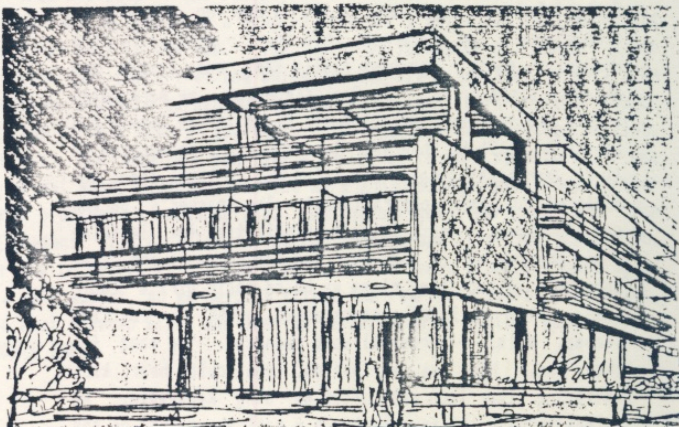
Began with the first possible "sleep-in" on the tour. The three or four people missing Hungarian entry/exit visas met at the Hungarian Consulate in Bonn at 9:00 AM. They were much relieved to discover that, thanks to Connie's intervention in Hungarian, their individual cost would be 10 DM rather than the quoted 50DM. For the rest of us, sleeping, shopping, and sight-seeing were the order for most of the day. We met at Schlosskirche at 3PM for a somewhat painful rehearsal of "the Seasons" and of the Mozart "Requiem". Dinner at the Mensa was apparently quite edible - unlike that of the previous evening! We all met at the main train station at 8 PM that night - our train was due to leave at 9:06 PM. In preparation for this journey, most of us had bought cheese, bread and a bottle or two (O.K. three!) of wine. We were all staying in the same car except for Maureen - bad luck, but she apparently had an interesting evening anyway. After an early thrill, seeing the many floodlit castles on the Rhine, about ten or eleven of us ended up drinking, singing and generally "making merry" in one couchette; unfortunately, our couchette was located next to the one assigned to those people who wanted to get some sleep! Our apologies again. We arrived in Vienna pale, exhausted, and quite hungover (could have been the whiskey, might have been the gin...) after ten hours. It was an experience! - **SANDRA BROWN**

FRIDAY, MAY 22 - Train arrives in Vienna - sight seeing - first rehearsal with Berkeley.

Not exactly sure when yesterday ended and today began. I think we started drinking last night (everything and anything) and finished this AM. "And last night? Just another average night!" We've eaten enough bread and cheese to keep us regular till St. Moritz and with Colin in his top, bubbly, unstable shape of mind, our cabin rocked for several hours (sorry Alexis). Discovery: - Brian has wonderful legs. Hour long dilemma: where will Deanna and Colin finally decide to sleep? (This all took place this AM.) Once we decided which evil twin lived in which castle we drained the last dregs of Colin's cheap wine and slept - sort of. We finally left our rocking beds at 8 and proceeded to see nothing of Vienna as our eyes were still closed. We met up with the U. Cal. Berkeley Glee club on arrival at the hotel. When John finally stopped hugging Megan, we ate dinner, (I think there was a mildly frightening rehearsal in there somewhere,) having had breakfast on arrival and a very rainy visit to the fabulous Schloss Schonbrunn. I dodged around tour groups from room to room in the palace. Observation: I think we should move the "Marooch" (St. Moritz Disco) to that ball room and really dance! I didn't go out that night and I can't remember if we had Schnitzel or not, however I think that it's safe to assume that we did. Furthermore, one may safely assume that Don and Mark drank Scotch, Sam drank out of pint size glasses, Colin introduced Berkeley to **CALVIN**, Nancy drank with Patti, whilst Allan practiced and Hilary went to bed early. I know I did. **KAREN PATTULLO**

SATURDAY, MAY 23 - Bus trip to Budapest, evening concert (#5) and party with "Builder's Chorus".

We left at 9AM this morning to start our trip to Hungary. The bus trip was uneventful, hot and tiring as usual. We were greeted by the conductor and a few members of the Hungarian "Chorus of Builders" and their kids at a gas station just before entering Budapest. These people were great - we had some flaky rolls and a shooter of apricot brandy on the bus. What a welcome! We followed them to the center of Budapest where we got off the bus and visited the Basilica of St. Stephen. It was quite amazing, all the architecture is very old but gorgeous. We even got to see the beginning of a wedding. From there we walked to the subway (one of the first in Europe) and took it to Hero's Square. The conductor's wife: Vera showed us around and really knew a lot about the city, she pointed out all kinds of interesting things. We were treated to lunch at a nice restaurant then boarded the bus for a quick sightseeing tour on the way to our hotel, a beautiful resort belonging to the Hungarian Builder's Union on the banks of the Danube river. We spent a short time getting organized at the hotel, then left to go to the Hungarian's rehearsal place for an informal concert, dinner and party afterward. The concert was very enjoyable and the party even more so. We ate, drank and sang...Generally had a great day. - **MAUREEN GARRY.**



SUNDAY, MAY 24 - Sight-seeing, noon concert (#6) at Bartok house, evening concert (#7) at Franz Liszt Recital Hall.



For the first time since Hilversum, we awoke to a beautiful sunny day. After a short Hungarian breakfast (salami before noon?) we were herded into a bus for sightseeing. We saw the Parliament buildings, and in Buda, the castle and church on the hill top, where souvenir shopping was the favourite pastime. Our guide was fairly closed-mouthed about the role of the Soviets in Hungary - since the revolution, she said, they have not been a fixture in Hungarian politics - we'll never know for certain. After sightseeing, all three choirs sang for each other at Bartok memorial house. We did Komorous's Li Ching Chao madrigals in this charming little space, complete with a statue of Bela looking on. We moved through the rooms of the Bartok house, saw his piano and manuscripts et cetera, and then descended like starving locusts upon the poor music store that had been opened especially for us on this Sunday. All Editio Musica Budapest editions cost virtually nothing, and even the western editions were considerably cheaper. Most people bought huge packs of scores, but spent only from \$15-30. After a very late lunch we trooped back to our dormitory and prepared for our 6:30 PM (!) concert at the Franz Liszt Recital Hall. The house was packed. We experienced the Hungarian synchronized applause on several occasions. Especially for Turot, our Kodaly piece, which really brought the house down. That and one of the

Komorous pieces served as encores- Turot at about 40% faster than recommend government speed limits, I'm sure! A Late supper at 9:30 in our favourite restaurant, complete with more of that apricot fire-water with which they made us feel so welcome. We were treated to a show of Hungarian fiddlers and dancers (gypsy types I think), and John Oberhoffner was forced to do the terrifying and death-defying beer bottle dance, for which he was awarded a priceless jar of Hungarian paprika, to the envious stares of all near