

A young composer worth Chatter's time

Ensemble to play Hey Mozart! piece

BY DAVID STEINBERG
Journal Staff Writer

At its concert next weekend the Albuquerque ensemble Chatter will play the works of Philip Glass, Charles Wuorenin, Luciano Berio ... and John Paul Norman.

Glass, Wuorenin and Berio are important new-music composers.

Norman may join their ranks one day. He's only 12.

Chatter will perform the young man's 16-measure composition "Soldier Boston 1951."

Norman, a seventh-grader at St. Charles Borromeo School, wrote the short work for the Hey Mozart! short-melody competition. He was one of 16 youngsters statewide who won.

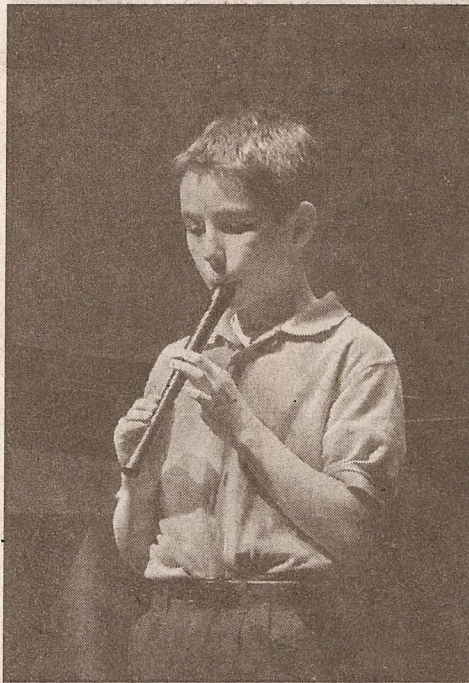
At a concert last month all 16 young composers played their own work and the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra performed each one.

Seven members of Chatter will play the orchestral version of "Soldier Boston 1951" in concert Oct. 21 at Corrales' Historic Old San Ysidro Church. The concert is part of the Music in Corrales series.

Norman, who lives in Corrales, plays the recorder. He thinks he'll probably want to write other compositions.

His mother, Debbie Norman, said she has tried to interest John Paul in playing an instrument. But it wasn't until her son was required to learn composition in a music class last school year that he got into it.

"So for the first time he had to look at



John Paul Norman, 12, will have his composition performed next weekend at a Chatter concert.

music seriously," she said.

"I remember when he was working on the composition and sort of made it up out of his head. It was a fun thing for him. He sent it off (to Hey Mozart!) and won."

She said her son was also interested in what the other kids had composed.

The Oct. 21 Chatter concert also will include, Berio's "Sequenza for Solo Oboe," Wuorenin's "Spinoff" for violin, bass and conga drums, John Adams' "John's Book of Alleged Dances" for string quartet and Glass' String Quartet No. 5.

David Felberg, Chatter's co-founder,

If you go

WHAT: Chatter

WHEN: 3 p.m. Oct. 21

WHERE: Historic Old San Ysidro Church, Old Church Road, Corrales

HOW MUCH: \$22 in advance at Bookworks, Frame 'n' Art and Music Mart; \$25 at the door

For information call toll-free (877) 287-0082 or go to the Web site www.musicincorrales.org

said the Glass is a minimalist piece but with "a slight lush romantic quality. It's a combination of short melodic cells put together to create this wash of sound."

"It's the emotional core of the program," Felberg said.

Chatter will play eight of the 10 segments in the Adams piece.

Felberg quoted Adams as saying the work has "alleged" in the title because steps have not yet been invented for the dances.

It's performed on amplified instruments accompanied by a recorded percussion track.

Playing both quartets are Felberg and Gabriel Gordon on violins, Marcio Rodrigues on viola and Felix Wurman on cello.

Felberg said "Spinoff" is "a 6½ minute total rush of energy. The tonal language is harsh and dissonant but it's very rhythmic at the same time."

He said the composer, Wuorenin, wants the piece to sound like three sweaty musicians rehearsing on a hot summer afternoon in a New York City apartment with the window open.