

# Philharmonic to present Laser Pops at Koger

From staff reports

On Sunday, March 20, at the Koger Center, the South Carolina Philharmonic will present its' first Laser Pops Concert. Nicholas Smith, Music Director of the South Carolina Philharmonic, has had great success with his laser concerts in England.

"Audiences in England- rarely less than 5,000 for one of these concerts- have been spellbound by both the technology and artistry of what the lasers bring to the concerts," states Nicholas Smith.

"The lasers can add enormously to the music helping to create a mood, excitement and emphasizing the rhythmic impetus," Smith said.

The lasers are controlled from a computer keyboard which gives instantaneous control of the shape, direction, movement and color of the lasers. Laser Dynamics, a laser company based in Great Britain, will fly over to set up the Koger Center with these special effects.

Laser Dynamics is an internationally renowned laser company producing meticulously designed laser displays world-wide and specializing in classical music performances and rock concerts. They have produced shows for the London Philharmonic Orchestra, The Bristol Philharmonic Orchestra, The Philharmonic Pops Orchestra, The Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra, and in the rock industry, Bobby Brown, New Order, The Happy Mondays, The Pet Shop Boys, 808 State, The farm, K. Class, and many others.

The laser systems combine a unique real-time facility with the ability to leap in and out of high quality preprogrammed graphic animations within seven nanoseconds.

"This is one of the reasons that conductors and live bands use our company, as the laser is used as a live instrument reacting exactly to the tempo of the conductor's baton or the

tempo of the band," states Patti de Vaux, co-owner of Laser Dynamics.

Sample works to be performed at the Laser Pops Concert are Ravel's Bolero, Strauss' Blue Danube Waltz, Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, performed by Pianist Robert Ward.

Mr. Ward is a winner of the Prix Di Positano, awarded by famed German pianist Wilhelm Kempff for outstanding performance of Beethoven's piano works. He first won international recognition on a concert tour of Latin America, during which he introduced Samuel Barber's Concerto for Piano in eleven countries.

Recipient of numerous awards including an Austrian Government Grant for study in Vienna and a Fulbright Award to Italy, he has studied with such outstanding teachers as Dieter Weber, Carlo Zecchi, Stanley Fletcher, Webster Aiken, and most recently with Dorothy Taubman.

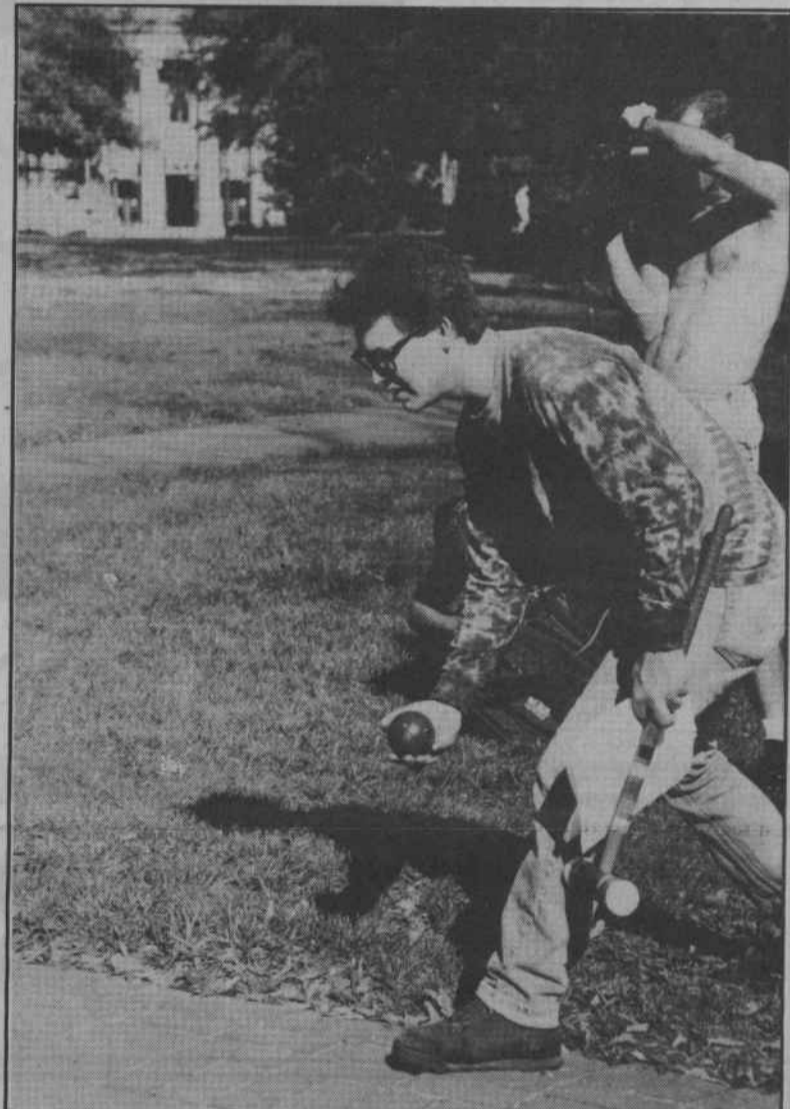
Following nine years on the faculty at University of Southern California, Los Angeles and Occidental College. A popular soloist, lecture recitalist and chamber musician, he performs frequently at America's most distinguished music schools, national conventions and music festivals at home and abroad. Robert Ward's most recent schedule included performances of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with the Pasadena Pops Orchestra at the Rose Bowl and the Burbank Symphony at the Starlight Bowl.

A few tickets are still available for the 7:30 PM performance and may be purchased at the Philharmonic office located at 1237 Gadsden Street or by phone at 771-7937. Tickets are priced at \$9, \$14, \$17 and \$21. Student, senior citizen, military and faculty discounts are available. Tickets are also available at the Koger Center, located at 1051 Greene Street, the evening of the performance.



## Running with the Devil

A group of media arts students work on the Horseshoe Tuesday for a Video II project, making the film "The Devil's Croquet Game." Above, media arts senior Kevin Balkwill tapes English senior John Hodges playing croquet with a tree limb. Hodges, right, prepares to roll a croquet ball. Media arts senior Glenn Parker, below, checks the audio levels in preparation for the next scene.



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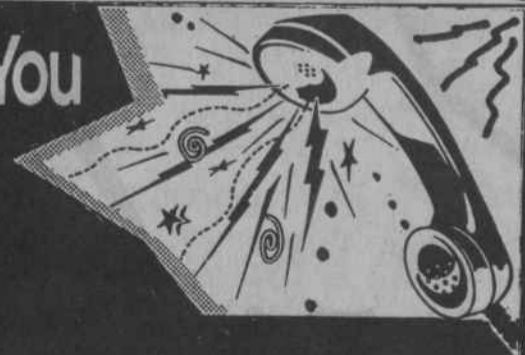
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