

Week highlights sounds of 'new music'

By Suzy Price
Staff Writer

Music

ORGANIZERS of New Music Week at the UI want to introduce people to their evolving art form.

"I'd like people who don't even know they like new music to be interested," said Matt Marth, organizer of New Music Week. "They just have to come along and accept the new sounds for what they are."

New Music Week, currently underway, consists of concerts and performances of different types of new music. But what is 'new music?' According to Marth, secretary of Phi Mu Alpha (the professional music fraternity organizing the events) it's hard to describe.

"**NEW MUSIC SHOULD** be composed in the last 10 or 20 years, but there was a lot of innovation in the '30s, for

example, that to most people would be new and different," he said. "We left it to members of the faculty to choose their pieces. Some of the music goes back 40 or 50 years."

The events reflect the different areas new music covers. Philip Glass is one of the most popular new music composers and a four-hour recording of his work *Einstein on the Beach* will be played today from noon to 4 p.m. in the Music Building Lounge. People will be able to come and go when they please between acts.

"There is a lot of repetition and tonal harmonies. It has ties with pop music," he said.

Some people tend to be put off new music because they feel it is tuneless or formless. "There is a lot of what's called atonal

music — disharmony — but even in Mozart's time there was a lot of dissonance and the music's been progressing ever since," Marth said.

THE PERFORMANCES also include some examples of experimental electronic music with synthesizers and recorded and distorted sounds. "This area's getting more important, it's forging ahead, and has some very intense sounds," Marth said.

As part of the New Music Week, Phi Mu Alpha is presenting a recital Friday at 5 p.m., as well as an all-day lecture and performance by Michael Farley. A UI student recital will be held Saturday at 3 p.m. in Voxman Hall. The week will end Saturday night with a concert at 8 in Clapp Recital Hall, featuring the award-winning UI Center for New Music. This will include a piece for four marimba play-

ers by a faculty member, Donald Martin Jenni, and a piece for a tape and seven players by the former director of the electronic music department, Peter Tod Lewis.

MARTH HOPES people will attend the events because "new music is important and should be brought out" and because most people are not aware of what it is all about. He hopes that the week will become an annual event; next year New Music Week organizers hope to attract professionals from around the world.

"I'd like people to get so used to hearing new music that when they hear a sound they will intuitively know what the next chord is, as they do now with Mozart and Beethoven," Marth said. "Though as with classical music there will always be surprises. Music's all about the unexpected."