

## Music for all tastes in Guelph festival



Entertainment for everyone is the main theme of the 1985 Guelph Spring Festival that was recently announced by the artistic director, Nicholas Goldschmidt.

The festival, which is in its eighteenth season, will run from April 26 to May 14 and will feature mainly Canadian performers.

Five of the 16 different programs are in the serious concert and operatic fields and about the same number are in the popular classical area. The remaining program consists of two ballets, two popular music concerts and two children's events.

Benjamin Britten's dramatic opera *The Prodigal Son*, which enjoyed overwhelming critical success in the 1969 festival, returns as a new production with James McLean as the prodigal son, Emile Belcourt as the tempter, Bruce Kelly as the elder son and Gary Relyea as the father. The opera will be directed by Robert Carson with Nicholas Goldschmidt as music director. Jim Plaxton will design the sets in the interior of Guelph's St. Andrew's Church.

Other serious concert events will include Brazilian pianist Jean-Louis Steuerman, in his Canadian debut recital, playing works



Ann Mortifee will be among the popular music features at the spring festival.

by Bach, Schumann, Berg and Scriabin; a choral concert featuring soprano Marvis Martin singing Schubert's Mass in G, with Glyn Evans, tenor, Ingemar Korjus, bass-baritone, the Opera in Concert Chorus, the Mainly Mozart Orchestra and conductor Nicholas Goldschmidt; the Canadian Chamber Ensemble, conducted by Raffi Armenian, with the winner of the 1985 Inter-



The Danny Grossman Dance Company will perform the premiere of a new work in Guelph.

national Bach Piano Competition as soloist, in a program that will include the premiere of André Prévo's Chamber Symphony; and a concert by the Edward Johnson Music Competition winners May 7, 1984.

Dance events include The Thai Classical Dancers and Musicians from Bangkok, in their North American debut and The Danny Grossman Dance Company, performing the world premiere of a new work, inspired by the music of Eric Satie and the writing of Colette. It may also include the first North American performance of another new work, which will have its premiere in Paris.

Recitals in the lighter classical vein will be given by soprano Stephanie Bogle and pianist Monica Gaylord. Katherine Terrell, soprano, Deborah Milsom, mezzo-soprano, Mark DuBois, tenor, and Mark Pedrotti, baritone, will offer An Evening of Gilbert and Sullivan with pianist Stephen Ralls and narrator Eric Donkin; and Janet Stubbs, mezzo-soprano, Peter Barnes, baritone, and Stephen Ralls and Bruce Ubukata, pianists, will present an Afternoon with Jane Austen, which was originally heard at the Toronto International Festival.

Popular music events include Rob McConnell and the Boss Brass, winners of 1984 Grammy award, with big band jazz and singer/songwriter Ann Mortifee.

The children's programs are, the Théâtre Sur Le Fil from France, with cut-out puppets, and Umiak, which takes the audience on an Inuit adventure. There will be English and French versions of both children's productions.

## Awards for best plays

The Chalmers Award for best Canadian play of 1984 was presented to George Walker of Toronto, Ontario, for his comedy, *Criminals in Love*. The award includes a plaque and \$5 000.

The play, which opened in the fall of 1984, has been held over several times, and is still running at the Factory Theatre in Toronto. Mr. Walker characterizes *Criminals in Love* simply: "It's a play about two kids in love who have a dilemma, which becomes a crime, then a stupid crime, then a revolution."

Mr. Walker has written many hit plays, including *Zastrozzi*, *Theatre of The Film Noir*, *Beyond Mozambique* and *Better Living*, that have enjoyed rave reviews and sold-out houses in Canada, the US, England and Australia. He recently returned from Sydney, Australia where he directed a production of *Zastrozzi* that was so successful it was held over for an extended run.