

Fireworks and Dirges at the Centre Communautaire

by ZOË GREEN
Entertainments Co-Editor

On October 27, Sophie Rolland, cellist, and Carmen Picard, pianist, gave a concert at the Centre Communautaire. Their audience was shamefully small - Fredericton's music lovers, where were you?

The duo began their performance with a Sonata for Cello and Piano by Liebmann. Though written in 1806, the Sonata was only discovered five years ago in Berlin. Sunday night's rendition was hence its premiere in North America. It was played with great brio, Rolland's expressive face communicating her enjoyment of the Allegro's flowing melodies. I was particularly struck by the plaintive lyricism of the Adagio.

The program continued with some full-blooded Romanticism, Schumann's Opus 70. This composition contrasts the plangent yearnings of cello themes with plenty of keyboard 'fireworks', thus giving both performers ample scope in which to reveal their

talents. It provided a striking antithesis to the third work of the evening, Matinu's Variations about a Slovakian Theme. This piece embodied what one thinks of as a

characteristic attack of the East European miseries, being essentially melancholy (dare I say, dirge-like?) It was memorable for the vigour of Picard's rubato, and the equal strenuousness of Rolland's pizzicato. (Indeed, the aggressiveness of Rolland's attack on a particularly rhythmic passage took its toll of her bow - a few horsehairs were seen to part company with their neighbours.)

In comparison with the elegiac quality of the Matinu Variations, the final sonata, by Franck, created an atmosphere of expansive joyousness. If I had thought of the cello as merely the continuo in-fill to a Baroque ensemble, then the Franck disabused me - as did the encore, Popper's Dance of the Elves, in which the audience was treated to a stunning display of technique - a lively, humorous ending to a varied and highly enjoyable evening's entertainment.



Carmen Picard
photo by Mike Robichaud

Sophie Rolland
photo by Mike Robichaud

CHSR - FM Top 30 Albums

(as of Nov. 3 1985)

1. *Skinny Puppy-Bites-(Nettwerk)
2. Talking Heads-Little Creatures-(Sire)
3. *FM-Con.Test-(Quality)
4. The Cure-The Head On The Door-(Elektra)
5. Love And Rockets-Ball of Confusion(EP)-(Vertigo)
6. *Various Artists-Shindig-(Zulubird)
7. *Grapes Of Wrath-September Bowl Of Green-(Nettwerk)
8. *Terminal Sunglasses-Wrap Around Cool-(OG)
9. Various Artists-Greenpeace-(A&M)
10. *Jane Siberry-The Speckless Sky-(Duke Street)
11. *God & The State-Ruins-(Happy Squid)
12. Sting-Dream Of The Blue Turtles-(A&M)
13. Kate Bush-Hounds Of Love-(EMI)
14. *Tulpa-Mosaic Fish-(Midnight Music)
15. *Rough Trade-Best Of Rough Trade-(CBS)
16. Shriekback-Oil & Gold-(Island)
18. The Armoury Show-Waiting For The Floods-(EMI)
19. *The Lucy Show-Undone-(A&M)
20. New Order-Low-Life-(Factory)
21. The Style Council-The Lodgers-(Polydor)
22. The Smiths-That Joke Isn't Funny Anymore-(Rough Trade)
23. Lou Reed-September Song(EP)-(A&M)
24. Cabaret Voltaire-Drinking Gasoline(EP)-(Virgin)
25. X-Ain't Life Grand-(Elektra)
26. OMD-Crush-(Virgin)
27. Wire Train-Between Two Worlds-(CBS)
28. Various Artists-Vertigo Sampler-(Vertigo)
29. *The Box-All The Time-(Alert)
30. The Knitters-Poor Little Critter On The Road-(Slash)

* - Canadian Content

Compiled by Kathy Nelson

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