

Wild on Goose Chase

Interview by Jeff Wildman

The fact that David Sereda is pursuing a career as a singer would not surprise a neighbour who remembers three year old David swinging on a swing, singing "Home on the Range" at the top of his lungs. When we discussed the significance of this early choice of material, Sereda laughed and said that the idea of home has always been important to him. Home is comfort and security. Home is where the heart is. Home is inside people.

Sereda is a wholesome young man, the kind of earnest and sincere artist interested people can discover for themselves October 5 and 6 when he will be playing two concerts at Espace Tournesol. A few days ago the *Gateway* talked to Sereda about his upcoming concerts.

Gateway: You have called your concert *Wild Goose Chase*. What is the significance of that name?

Sereda: *Wild Goose Chase* has many meanings for me. I plan to embark on a tour this autumn. . . .

Gateway: Is it maybe a wild goose chase?

Sereda: Sort of . . . at least my mother thinks so. Mothers are so practical. But more so, the name *Wild Goose Chase*, which is also the title of a song I wrote, signifies the hopes I have for this tour. Firstly, it will be in autumn, migration time for geese and it will be the start of a serious search for something that is intangible and therefore can't ever really be caught. That something is music, I guess. That's a wild goose chase. I enjoy the flying involved in a chase as well as the object, however far it may be from me.

Gateway: *Wild Goose Chase* is your song? Will you do all your own material in the concerts? How will you accompany yourself?

Sereda: Yes, all my own material, the product of two years' serious writing. I play the piano and sing acapella. Also I have a friend made out of wood who helps me out.

Gateway: About that wooden friend?

Sereda: Dancing Man is a wooden figurine with joints at the arms, hips and knees. In performances the sound

of the wooden man as he "dances" on his platform provides rhythm for my song. The same idea as spoons in Acadian music.

Gateway: You've told me that you really don't classify the music you write and perform, but what about influences or preferences, musically?

Sereda: Well, I like Joni Mitchell for her . . . , the non-obvious things in her music, its internal rhythms, her ear for music . . . her voice which soars in long phrase lines . . . That style seems very influenced by her prairie childhood. There is something expansive and clear about Joni's music that is like the huge, clear prairie skies. I like Black Spiritualists for the love in their voices despite, in many cases, a life filled with oppression. Hymns and spirituals; classical music is indispensable and jazz music.

Gateway: Joni Mitchell seems to be veering towards a more jazz oriented music that is very overlaid with Black music from other genres like Gospel and the Blues. I suppose this kind of jazz exploration is similar to what you desire for yourself?

Sereda: Certainly working at and stretching oneself as an artist is something that I desire for myself. The need for time to write and the opportunity to perform my work makes me concentrate on practical things too, like my upcoming tour.

Gateway: Talk a bit about your songs.

Sereda: Well, they are personal in the sense that I am trying to give some personal ideas the musical expression that they seem to need. I express some of myself . . . , I try to communicate through music. My music is influenced by living in Edmonton and seeing all the changes that have occurred in Edmonton: the bad changes and the good ones. I write about personal relationships.

Gateway: Besides the upcoming concert at Espace Tournesol and the autumn "goose chase" tour, what are your plans?

Sereda: I'm ready for a flood of new ideas and experiences so I think I'd like to do some travelling around. The tour will be good.

Thursday Thursday

THEATER

Walterdale Theatre, 462-0721

Oct. 9-20, 8 p.m. Walterdale's first production is *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Jean Brodie is the teacher who has gathered about her a knot of favored pupils, much to the wrath of the headmistress of the school, Miss MacKay. Miss Brodie's career unfolds against a background of her dedication to the rising Fascism in Italy, and her sexually charged conflict with the art master. Season tickets are now on sale at the ticket sales outlet of the Bay's downtown store. Ticket prices this year are: \$3.50 for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and \$4 for Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances. Children's prices are \$2.

Catalyst Theatre Society, 433-1634

Oct. 5-18, *On And Off The Street*. This is an original play about a juvenile who is in trouble with the law. The play is showing at Theatre Three, 10426-95 St., 426-6870. Tickets are available at The Bay, SU Box Office, and Theatre Three.

SUB Theatre

Oct. 11, 13, 8:30 p.m. Tarragon Theatre hits the road with *18 Wheels*, a truckin' musical. Tickets are \$5 at all BASS outlets.

The Citadel Theatre, 9828 - 101A Ave., 426-4811

Sept. 26 - Oct. 21, 8:30 p.m. Peter Coe's modern production of *Hamlet* continues.

GALLERIES

Students' Union Art Gallery

Oct. 3-15, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. weekends. Two graduates of the university's MVA program will be exhibiting their paintings.

Beaver House Gallery, third floor, 10158-103 St.

Oct. 1-19, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., *Women Artists in Alberta*. In honour of the 50th anniversary of the famous "Person's Case" which granted Canadian women the right to sit in the federal Senate, Alberta Culture and the Alberta Art Foundation are presenting an exhibition of women's art. The exhibit consists of 29 works in a variety of mediums: watercolours, oil and acrylic paintings, prints and drawings by well known Alberta artists including Marion Nicoll, Janet Mitchell and Euphemia MacNaught. Admission is free.

MUSIC

Latitude 53, 10048 - 101A Ave., 423-3126

Oct. 6, 8 p.m. Works by Handel, Loeliet, Haydn and Telemann will be played by the Western Chamber Ensemble. The ensemble is comprised of Jonathan Bailey (flute), Dayno Fisher (oboe), and Brian Berkowitz (harpsicord). Tickets are \$5 at the door or by subscription.

SUB Theatre

Oct. 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m., Dave Brubeck. Tickets are \$8.50 at all BASS outlets.

Oct. 5, 7:30 and 10 p.m. Female impersonator Craig Russell struts his stuff. Tickets are \$10 at all BASS outlets.

Oct. 9, 8:30 p.m. The Edmonton Jazz Society presents German jazz bassist Eberhard Weber. Tickets are \$7 for EJS members, \$8 for non-members and are available at Mike's, the SU Box Office and at the door. Convocation Hall, University of Alberta

Oct. 9, 8 p.m., The Musicians of Swanne Alley. This ensemble concentrates on the late Renaissance virtuoso English and Italian repertory. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for students and senior citizens and are available at the Music Dept., U of A., Mike's and the Hudson's Bay Office. For more information call 474-5761.

SUB Theatre

Oct. 10, 8 p.m., The Edmonton Chamber Music Society begins its 1979-80 season by presenting The Dalart Trio. The trio was formed in 1976 by violinist Philippe Djokic, cellist William Valteau, and pianist William Fritt, all performing faculty members of the music department at Dalhousie University. They will be playing Beethoven's "Kakuda" Variations; "Metamorphoses" by the Canadian composer Clifford Ford; Shostakovich' second trio and the Mendelssohn Trio No. 2 in C minor. Admission to the concert is by season membership in the Society. Tickets for the six Wednesday concerts are \$25, with a special \$12 rate for full time students and senior citizens. They can be purchased at SU Box Office, at Canadiana Gifts and at the door.

Edmonton Public Library, Centennial Library Theatre, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. The Jhanka Association and Andhra Cultural Association present "Sangeetha Kalanidhi" Dr. Balamuralikrishna in a concert of classical carnatic music (from the southern regions) of India. He plays sitar and is recognized as one of the best exponents of carnatic music. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and information about them can be obtained by phoning Stanley at 432-7710.

Espace Tournesol, 11845 - 77 St.

Oct. 5-6, 9 p.m. Edmonton songwriter David Sereda is beginning a tour with a concert called *Wild Goose Chase*. Tickets are \$3.50 at the door.

Past notes

Their music is as "sweet and gentle as a consort song lullaby, as rousing and light-hearted as an English country dance, or as dramatic as the maniacal virtuosic display of Italian lute music." These diverse descriptions are applied to the music of a group called The Musicians of Swanne Alley who will be appearing in Convocation Hall on October 9.

Named after an actual 16th century English group, Swanne Alley is a six member ensemble that concentrates on late Renaissance English and Italian music. They first came to national attention when they appeared on CBS-TV's Camera 3 in 1977. They have made numerous radio recordings and have toured the eastern United States and Canada.

Swanne Alley's instruments are as diverse as the music they play. Recorders, crumhorns, pandoras, citterns, lutes, flutes and viols are some of the instruments from which music is drawn. In their continuing interest to link performance with what is known of early music (a broad term referring to Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music), Swanne Alley tune its instruments to the pitches used during the Renaissance.

The group's members represent a variety of German, Canadian and American cultural



Swanne Alley is bringing the Renaissance to Convocation Hall.

backgrounds. They are led by two renowned lutists, Paul O'Dette and Lyle Nordstrom. They and the other four musicians are all teachers and sought after musicians. One of them may be familiar to Edmonton audiences. She is Christel Thielmann, a German born Canadian, who was trained at the Banff Centre of Fine Arts and at the University of Alberta.

The Musicians of Swanne Alley are a group who bring a little of the 16th century into the present. Who needs time machines?

A fair in the park

In 1929, five Alberta women took their fight to have women legally declared "persons" all the way to the British Privy Council and won. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the "Person's Case," a festival organized and hosted by women will be taking place this long weekend in Rundle Park.

The Women's Harvest Culture Fair begins Saturday with an address by Mary J. LeMessurier, Minister Responsible for Culture. Following this, playwright Sharon Pollock will read from her script on the "Person's Case." There will also be a Grand Harvest Food Competition, folksinging and several films, including an NFB film about Margaret Lawrence. The day will end with an auction of food from the food competition and a Harvest Moon Dance and Bar.

On Sunday and Monday there will be panel discussions on Film and Educational Media. There will be puppet shows, a song-writing workshop and a music composing workshop led by Violet Archer. Folkdancer Eleanora Park and the Alberta School of Ballet will be instructing a dance workshop. Barbara Kopple's academy-award winning documentary *Harlan County, U.S.A.* will be shown.

For the children there is free entertainment and daycare. Anyone interested is asked to phone festival co-ordinator Tricia Smith at 439-2691 or 427-7661.



The Edmonton Chamber Music Society begins its 1979-80 season with the Dalart Trio next Wednesday night.