

Joan of Arc is fascinating spiritual opera

By Eric Walberg

What comes to your mind when you think of opera? Old biddies parading in mink stoles, and improbable plots related via long

tedious arias in some foreign language.

Unfortunately, there is much truth to this bias. However, this year's opera season has one ex-

ception to at least the latter complaint (you'll have to ignore the minks) - Tchaikovsky's Joan of Arc, at the O'Keefe in a new English translation.

This is a fascinating portayal of the great 15th century French heroine. Inspired by her 'voices', a simple peasant girl captures her people's imagination and leads them to victory over the English.

This is a very different Joan to that of George Bernard Shaw. It is not Joan's intellect that speaks, but her religious zeal and purity that sing and inspire. Tchaikovsky's Joan is maybe not as complex a character as Shaw's, but she is much more human.

A criticism of Tchaikovsky's operas, and one which he admitted to, is that they are weak as theatre. This was because his concern was with "poetry, humanity, and simplicity."

Thus, the plot is really secondary to the anguish and emotional dilemma with which Joan is faced. On the one hand we experience her religious fervor, her voices, and the defense of her native land; on the other, her human 'weakness' as symbolized by her love for an enemy soldier who was sent to assassinate her, but falls captive to her charm.

Though this may sound like the same old story - boy meets girl - there's much more to it than that.

The love plot merely symbolizes the humanness of Joan, and heightens the dramatic effect of the human/spiritual dilemma which Joan faces.

The obsession which Tchaikovsky had with tragedy and the inevitability of fate is given free rein in the form of the inquisition and the Church which first supports Joan, and then turns against her when Joan gives in to her human longings.

For Tchaikovsky, Joan's torture and burning are the inevitable result of her foresaking her chastity, for she "must love no man." Man's passions bring with them suffering and death. The inquisition is merely the instrument by which God meets out this 'justice'.

Although it was composed in the 1870', this performance marks the North American premiere of the full opera. The only country where the opera has enjoyed continued popularity is the Soviet Union.

Joan of Arc thus reveals Tchaikovsky as an artist who understood and could express both his nation's character and human passion and suffering.



CALUMET COLLEGE PRESENTS THE GREAT CANADIAN SMALL LEAP FORWARD

You're in your last year at York, at the end of an arts or fine arts course—but not sure what you want to do after you leave.

But maybe you've got an idea that could make you a living — if you could figure out how to transform your fantasy to fact.

Calumet College has good news for you.

We've put together a line-up of seven practical seminars that will show you how to start your own small business and turn it into a success-story. legal problems, real-estate, how to finance, merchandise, and advertise your product or service — these are some of the topics we'll be dealing with.

You will also get a chance to work out your own project with a trained consultant from the Faculty of Administrative Studies.

But be warned: the course is not for the student who's headed for a career in com-

merce or industry, but for the person who wants to be his or her own boss, and who has an idea of what can make that dream come true.

This fall, Calumet College will be running two parallel evening courses, one of Tuesday, the other on Wednesday. There will be a joint session on Tuesday, 11 October, to kick off the series.

You won't pay a registration fee, though we are asking \$25 to cover the costs of a light supper before each session.


For more information, contact Gabriele Hardt, 134 Calumet College (667-3487) before the end of September, or sooner: there are not many spaces left.

P.S.: Anybody is eligible to participate, but we hope that especially our Calumet students will get involved.

A project of Calumet College, in co-operation with the Small Business Assistance Programme of the Faculty of Administrative Studies.

ALEX IRVINE

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HELENA HUGHES
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
RENAULT DIVISION

PARKING NOTICE

In order to give new members of the community the opportunity to purchase parking decals vehicles may park free of charge in any peripheral (single letter) lot on the York Campus until September 22, 1978. All motor vehicles driven on campus must be registered with the Parking Office (Temporary Office Building) by the above date. Persons registering vehicles are advised that they must be prepared to provide the ownership permit.

Registration may be effected by purchasing a Day-time Reserved Area Decal, a Day-time Unreserved Area Decal, an Evening Reserved Area Decal, an Evening Unreserved Area Decal, or by obtaining a Registration Decal, which is issued free of charge. Sessional Evening Area Decals are available only to part-time personnel, who will be required to produce evidence of their part-time status. Those persons obtaining a Registration Decal are required to pay the appropriate fee in lots where hourly or daily fees are accepted.

After September 22nd attendants will be on duty at all peripheral lots and those persons without appropriate current decals will be required to park in "M" lot and to pay the daily fee of \$1.00. Parking Fees for 1978/79 are as follows:

Day-time Reserved	— \$125.00 a year
Evening Reserved (Valid after 5.00 p.m. only)	— \$20.00 a session
Day-time Unreserved	— \$40.00
Evening Unreserved (Valid after 5.00 p.m. only)	— \$10.00 a session
Motor-cycles	— \$2.00 a year
Daily Fee ("M" lot only)	— \$1.00

H. LARKINS — Parking Supervisor
Department of Safety and Security Services

N.B. NO SIGN MEANS NO PARKING

7TH SEPTEMBER 1978