

Entertainment

Last Monday, I went on a blind date arranged by a spinster friend. Little did I know what I was in for; how was I to know the babe was two hundred years old? When she was described to me as the older sister of one of the World's greatest composers, I thought she meant Janet Jackson.

A clue to this lady's past should have been obvious once I was admitted to the household parlour. A big baby

nally made her grand entrance to musical accompaniment, she marched like an extra in *Babes in Toyland*. Her outfit was definitely different. She looked like a cross between a nose-tackle for the Minnesota Vikings and Miss Piggy. Imagine my good fortune. Not.

After formal introductions by her trusty chap-eron Michael Haydan, we eased into a little 'get acquainted' conversation. She said her name was Maria Anna Santanna

child prodigy, and how it all changed at age 15. For a woman it was more important to be considering marriage than pursuing a musical career. Besides, it wasn't the proper thing for a young lady to do.

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I learned a lot. Did you know that Nannerl wrote *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*? Or that they had dancing potted flowers in 1787?? Cool. The audience was liberal (small L) in their laughter and applause. They particularly enjoyed *Alleluia*. Just that one word over and over and over again. It reminded me

get the ghost to speak!!

Ms. Mozart was the inaugural piece for the 1993-94 Onstage series presented by the Council of the Arts Fredericton. It was a great beginning for the new season. The next Onstage presentation will be Edmonton's folkdance ensemble, Vinok, on November 3rd at the Playhouse. I'm sure that the musical pundits enjoyed the singing and the piano playing. The pace was quick and the



Wolfgang's Sister:

Ms. Mozart

grand piano dominated the living room; so did an enormous painting. The masterpiece showed some 18th century dysfunctional family hanging around a piano. As I cringed in trepidation on the big leather sofa, her man-servant gave me the once over, the evil eye, and the "you'd better not mess with my little girl" glare. But there were no deadheads on the walls. Conclusion: no shot gun, man!! I was safe.

When my date fi-

Mozart, but I could call her Nannerl. She was just visiting Freddy Beach for a few days. Though weary from her travels, she was not too tired to talk, play music, and sing!

You guessed it! My date was *Ms. Mozart* a.k.a. Mary Lou Fallis. For two hours, she entertained me and 700 other patrons at the Playhouse. Her story was cleverly told in verse, music and laughter. While she was only fabulously talented, her younger brother was a genius. She explained how difficult it was to be a

Her tale of sibling rivalry was acted out in comic vignettes, mock opera, and some beguiling humour. I especially enjoyed the blindfold piano duet with Michael Haydan a.k.a. Bruce Ubukata. Mr Haydan was a good straight man. He tickled the ivory and our funny bones simultaneously. He easily accom-

panied Ms. Fallis through some amusing, but difficult pieces. The musical selections ranged from some of Mozart's classics to those of his peers.

Throughout the evening, Ms. Mozart spun her tale of Wolfie's achievements, her romantic liaisons, and the family's fortunes. Ghosts from the time period were invoked to give testimonials adding another dimension to the production. The voices were the creation of Christopher Britton. There were a few pregnant pauses due to missed cues which seemed to annoy Ms. Fallis. At one point, she almost broke the bust of Amadeus trying to

variety kept my interest up. I half expected the Energizer Bunny to come drumming across the stage!! Maybe next time. The fabulously talented Ms. Fallis gave a sincere and spirited performance as *Ms. Mozart*. My date was an unqualified success. But her little brother isn't so great; he never wrote the music for a beer commercial!!

by
Randall N. Haslett

The Duo Kim and a Cranky Piano

by Tammy Yates

Helen & Michael Kim played to a full house at Memorial Hall last Saturday night. It is a shame that more students do not take advantage of the opportunity to attend these performances. After all, one need not be an expert in classical music to enjoy the Creative Arts Series. Many of the pieces on

Saturday night sounded familiar and there was no test afterward!

The audience was delighted with dramatic selections like Frank's "Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Minor". Yet the light pretty pieces of Champagne's "Danse Villageoise for Violin and Piano" and the sweet "Carmen Fantasy, op.25" by Sarasate should not be forgotten. Still, the obvious favourite of the evening was Elgar's

"Salut d'amour for violin and piano" which drew a standing ovation from the appreciative audience. The timing of the duo was perfect.

Ms. Kim was the star of the evening. Standing centre stage, she made a striking figure in her long red gown. It was incredible to watch her play the entire concert without a single sheet of music! In the program, we read that she made her stage debut with the Calgary Philhar-

monic Symphony at the age of 6. It almost makes me regret quitting music lessons as a kid!

Michael Kim is also an extremely talented musician. His easy stage presence endeared him to the audience. Comments like "I think you like my sister better" when the audience paused before applauding as he entered the stage for his spectacular solo (Chopin's Polonaise in A flat, op. 53) and "I sometimes have to be stage

manager too" as he adjusted the piano were slipped in easily throughout the second half of the performance. It is unfortunate that the members of the Campus Budget Committee were not present to see him shake his head and remark, "The piano keeps changing tune" as he and his sister tuned their instruments briefly before each piece.