

ARTS



BABAK AMIRFEIZ

YORK UNIVERSITY'S VERY OWN HUMAN RIGHTS NOW CONCERT featured Itsa Skitsa, The Sofa Kings, Plasterscene Replicas and Baby Judas.

Bands do Amnesty proud

By SUSAN VANSTONE

So who cared if Sting couldn't make it to York? Obviously a lot of people, save the 200 and change who attended Friday night's "Sting Couldn't Make It (But Who Cares Anyway!?!)" benefit concert for the York Chapter of Amnesty International (YAI).

The turnout fell far short of YAI's goal of 350. But those who were there witnessed what will probably be York's best concert of the year.

Four independent Toronto bands — Baby Judas, The Sofa Kings, Itsa Skitsa, and the Plasterscene Replicas — played at the 3½-hour benefit.

MC Lawrence Morgenstern, a Yuk Yuk's comedian, got things under way with a top 10 list — Countries With Human Rights Violations and/or NHL Infraction Rules. Later, he sang "Gilligan's Island" to the tune of Bruce Springsteen's "My Hometown."

Baby Judas, the first band, provided an electric, Lynyrd Skynyrd-

ish set. After stripping down to a pair of leopard-skin boxers, lead singer Baz Migraine summed up AI's message by saying, "If this were Ireland, I'd be in prison for doing that."

The Sofa Kings' Michael Danckert and Glenn Levine offered stirring original songs on electric and acoustic guitars. The band, together for only a month, opened with Simon and Garfunkel's "Sound of Silence" and closed with the Youngbloods'

cont'd on p. 25

String trio performs Bach's Variations

By FARHAD DESAI

McLaughlin Hall was filled last Wednesday to witness musical history. For the first time in North America, a string trio performed Johann Sebastian Bach's "Goldberg Variations."

Bach, perhaps the best known composer from the Baroque Era, originally wrote the "Goldberg Variations" around 1742 for double-keyboard harpsichord. In 1955, Canadian pianist Glenn Gould established himself in the music world by recording the piece. In 1985, violinist Dmitry Sitkovetsky transcribed the piece from keyboard to string trio and dedicated it to the memory of Glenn Gould.

A trio of some of the best string players in this country performed that transcription last Wednesday.

The trio comprises Jaime Weisenblum (violin), Douglas Perry (viola), and Peter Schenkman (cello). They added new vibrancy to a piece written over 240 years ago. The group added their own dynamics and, judging by the response of faculty and students, it was successful.

Bach probably would have approved. It sounded natural played by a string trio. In the piano version of the "Goldberg Variations," the left hand keeps a steady rhythm while the right hand plays the melody. With string trio, each instrument plays rhythm at least once — the other two instruments play melody.

The result is that the string trio offers "Goldberg Variations" a new texture. In fact, one variation was played pizzicato (plucked strings) —

that option does not exist on the piano.

Weisenblum, concertmaster of the Canadian Opera Company for the past 14 years, said the piece was technically challenging. He cited difficult "bow crossings" as the major problem — reflecting the fact that the piece was written for keyboard rather than bowed instrument.

Weisenblum — who also teaches at York — was amazed at how well the trio played, as it was their first performance of the piece.

Another difficulty for the trio was endurance. Running between 45 and 47 minutes, the pieces offers no rests for players aside from a few bars here and there. Essentially, the performers played continuously. Often this causes pain in the right shoulder and elbow and stiffness in the left fingers.

Another problem the trio experienced was balance. Amazingly enough, it was the violin which overpowered the cello and viola for the initial part of the performance. This problem probably stemmed from the rehearsal in which Peter Schenkman (cello) overpowered the violin and viola. To compensate, Weisenblum and Perry (viola) shifted positions on stage to face the audience more and be heard a little better. Schenkman, in turn, played a little softer. Towards the end, however, the three performers settled into a more equal balance.

"Goldberg Variations" was originally commissioned by Baron Hermann Karl von Kaiserling, a patron of the arts who admired Bach. Kaiser-

cont'd on p. 24

CDC

Counselling & Development Centre

WE CAN HELP

- Personal Counselling
- Groups and Workshops
- Learning Skills
- Self-Change and Management
- Self-Help Centre
- University Skills Series
- Community Mental Health Consultation

Room 145
Behavioural Sciences Building
736-5297

LSAT

GMAT

Prep Courses

- Each course consists of 20 hours instruction for only \$170 or 32 hours for only \$235
- Courses are tax deductible
- Complete review of each section of each test
- Extensive home study materials
- Your course may be repeated at no additional charge

Classes for the December 3, 1988 LSAT
20 hour course Nov. 25, 26, 27/88
32 hour course Nov. 5, 6, 26, 27/88

Classes for the Jan. 28, 1989 GMAT
20 hour course Jan. 20, 21, 22/89
32 hour course Jan. 14, 15, 20, 21/89

For information:
GMAT/LSAT Preparation Courses
(416) 923-PREP (7737)

DANCEMAKERS' CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 2-5, 1988 8 PM
DANCEMAKERS' STUDIO
927 DUPONT STREET
(DUPONT AT OSSINGTON)

NEW CHOREOGRAPHIES BY
COMPANY MEMBERS
ALEXANDROVNA, DRUBE,
KYLE FENTON, JAMES AND SASSO

TICKETS \$6/8
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:
535-8880

PRODUCED WITH THE GENEROUS
ASSISTANCE OF THE ONTARIO ARTS
COUNCIL

**DANCE
MAKERS**

HELP

WE REQUIRE TWO OUTGOING, ENTHUSIASTIC ASSISTANTS FOR OUR SHOWROOM FEATURING UNIQUE GIFT ITEMS. NOV 1st-XMAS. FULL AND/OR PART-TIME, TUES-SAT 10-6

CALL 785-0262 TODAY

HEDONICS - UNIQUE PRODUCTS SINCE 84

Kelsey's Restaurants Passes with straight 'A's'!

A
Great Place for Large Parties

A
Bevy of *Wings & Shrimp for 15¢

*Every Mon., Tues., Wed. after 10 p.m. at the Bar Only.

A
Wide Variety for Sunday Brunch

Served every Sunday from 10 till 2

A
Place that is very Close & Convenient

On the North East corner of Steeles and Keele



Because of the Choice, A!
2180 Steeles Ave. W. 736-0388