

Paul Hann — Early times to remember

by David Oke

Paul Hann was the first artist to perform at the Hovel when it opened five years ago. This weekend he was back again, bringing an old friendship. Above all, Paul Hann is fun. He is a lively and humorous performer. The quick dig, the twinkling eyes, the sly smile and the second look always keep the audience on the edge of the laugh. Hann appeared to have as much fun performing as he did in watching him. Paul Hann's songs are fun. A good proportion of his performance was devoted to rhythmic numbers featuring clever and witty lyrics. In one he sang, "I'd like to make a little low budget, a little scene, I'd like to get you up there on the silver screen." Later, he satirized country western music, singing, "You just sorta stomped on my..." Hann continued this pace with songs such as "Love is Like a Key Game" and "End of the Old Cafe."

In 1967, Hann came to Canada to work as a lumberjack and ended up a professional musician. He combines his high-heeled, unpretentious personality with his English background into an appealing element of the performance. "Impeach Your Children," about his mom in England crying about her son in Canada, who is living in sin, singing in a rock'n'roll band. Along with his lighter material, Paul Hann includes songs that conveyed softer and deeper themes. "Queen of the..." deals with the feelings of a cold lovers meeting years after an affair has ended. The tension between deeply felt memories and their present situation (one was now happily married and the other, professionally successful) was conveyed touchingly and with precision.

"Fire Line" communicates

the heat of late summer, the mountains and the forest with a tangible realism. This summer setting explodes into a raging forest fire with the same realism. "Fire Line" was a highlight of the evening, written and performed with equal intensity.

Pete White, a native of New Denver, B.C. now living in Edmonton writes lyrics for Paul Hann's music. They met at Woodward's food floor and have remained together since. Indeed, the lyrics of Hann's music were one of the treats of his performance.

In spite of his easy-going stage manner, Hann is an accomplished musician. He plays both mandolin and six-string

guitar well, but the 12 string acoustic guitar is his instrument. He plays with a lively and expressive rhythm. Hann's instrumentals were filled with intricate and catchy runs.

At times however his runs were over done. Where a few notes or even a short pause would allow his audience to grasp the feeling of a song, Hann would drown the mood he had just created.

To those who haven't been down to the Hovel, lately, it has expanded. A wall has been taken out and the seating capacity doubled. This expansion has given the Hovel adequate dancing space for some good old time hoe-downing when the need arises.



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played — the separate string sections playing with great smooth, the clarinet and oboe passages with considerable clarity. The percussion variation (the...) was also in good hands. It took the fugue quite fast, so the tune could not be clearly discerned. This undermines the transformation of the melee when the Purcell tune triumphantly returns. (Britten, on recording, takes it that fast or faster, which gives it sanctity but I still object.)

The finale, as a friend suggested, was a celebration of joy of making music together, the audience gave a standing ovation, not just for the performance but for the idea of the ESO and the joy it is capable of bringing to Edmonton.

RECORDINGS: The Stamitz is performed by Frank Glazer Turnabout record (a budget price), which includes Stamitz's Concerto. The Mozart is available in a great performance by George Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra. Soloists Rafael Druian and Abraham Brodsky, who were that orchestra's first chairs under Leonard Bernstein. It is available on a single Columbia disc with Judith Raskin singing *Exultate Jubilate* (same

composer, conductor, orch.) or in a three-LP set which includes several other concerti. The Britten *Serenade* is available on London's budget Ace of Diamonds label with Peter Pears and the legendary Dennis Brain. Though recorded in the Fifties it has quite good sound, and includes Britten's *Piano Diversions*. Pears has a later version with Barry Tuckwell, with better sound, but his voice is no longer in as good condition. *The Young Persons Guide* is available with

narration, usually accompanied by Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, and as such makes a great introduction to classical music for children (or anyone).

Previn narrates and conducts an excellent version on Angel, and Sean Connery narrates while Antal Dorati conducts on London Phase Four, which has spectacular sound. Without narration there is Britten's version (London), or Sargent and the BBC on Angel's budget label Seraphim.

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CONCERTS

Humphrey and The Dumptrucks will be appearing at the SUB Theatre this Thursday, Jan. 20 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available from Mike's and the SU Box Office for \$5 or at the door for \$6. Along with The Dumptrucks, Hans Staymer will make a special guest appearance.

Six works, including the world premiere of a composition by Violet Archer, professor of music at the U of A, will be performed at an Explorations 5 concert Thursday, Feb. 3.

The concert, third in the 1976-77 series sponsored by the U of A's music department, will begin at 8:30 p.m. in the Provincial Museum Auditorium, 12845-102 Ave. Admission is free and there is also free parking.

In addition to Professor Archer's composition, *Suite For Solo Flute*, the program includes *Dances Andalouses* by Manuel Infante; *Radio Music* and excerpts from *Music For Piano* by John Cage; *Song Cycle on Poems of Heinrich Heine, Opus 24*, by Robert Schumann; and *Fantasia Betinca* by Manuel de Falla.

The concert will also celebrate the 100th birthday of Spanish composer de Falla and the 65th birthday of American composer Cage.

The performers will be staff, students and friends of the university's department of music.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Edmonton Symphony Association will be presenting a concert preview with pianist John Hendrickson. The preview takes place on Wed. Jan. 26 at 9:30 a.m. in the music rooms of the Edmonton Public Library. Admission is free and all are welcome.

The Edmonton Opera Guild is holding its' Sahara Opera Night Tues. Jan. 18, at 8:30 p.m. at the Sahara Restaurant. Admission is \$2 and tickets are available at the door. A number of opera singers will perform. Funds raised go towards the Edmonton Opera Scholarship Fund.

THEATRE

Winter Friends will be presented by the Alberta Contemporary Dance Theatre on Jan 28, and Jan 29. Performances start at 8 p.m. each evening. Tickets are \$4 and are available at the SU Box Office, Exhibition outlets, Mike's and at the door. Winter Friends is presented by the Students' Union with the assistance of Alberta Culture.

Vancouver born singer, song-writer Victor-Paul will be in concert at Espace Tournesol (formerly Tournesol Dance Space) on January 22 and 23. The concerts begin at 8:30 with tickets available at the door for \$2.50. Espace Tournesol is located at 11845-77 Str.

Northern Light Theatre presents the Monodramas of David Watmough from now until Jan. 29. Tickets for weekday noon-hour performances as well as Sat. evening performances are available. For further information, phone the Northern Light Theatre at 429-3110.

JEWELLERY

An exhibition of hand-made jewellery will be on display at Le Belle Arti, 12711 St. Albert Trail, until Jan. 22. The artist is Lilian Lipschitz from Uruguay.

WINTER'S FRIENDS

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