

Not so typical 18 year old

By KELLY CAMPBELL

The Rolston Trio, featuring 18 year old cellist Shauna Rolston, is touring New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with Debut Atlantic, a co-operative venture of CBC Radio and the Canada Council. This organization makes it possible for people of the Atlantic Region to view a large expanse of Canadian performers through funding that allows bookings to be made less expensively. It also helps ease the financial strain of touring by bestowing grants on a chosen few performers, thus enabling these relative unknowns, who show considerable promise in the national and international touring market, to showcase their skills to a wide range of audiences. Shauna Rolston is one such performer.

It is somehow not surprising that Shauna has accomplished so much at such an early age when you realize that she began playing the cello at the age of 2 1/2. She was trained and encouraged all her life by her parents Tom and Isabel Rolston. Tom Rolston, a violinist, was a professor of Music at the University of Alberta and is still the leader of that university's string quartet. He is also the Artistic Director of Music at the Banff Center. Isabel Rolston is a much in demand concert pianist.

When Shauna was asked how she felt she became so proficient a musician in so few years, she replied that music came naturally to her. Unlike many young musicians who decided to pursue a career after studying for many years on an extra-curricular basis, Shauna claims that her training has been serious from the beginning. "That may be why I'm a little different," she says. She maintains that an early aptitude for music must be nurtured and gently encouraged, and if the drive for excellence seems to be there then the career begins. Although she admits "at 2 1/2 you don't have a burning desire to become a great cellist," she maintains that a musical career was a conscious decision on her part and that she never felt pushed into it. The only real turning point in her career came at the age of 12 when she made her professional debut with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. It was at this time that she believes she began "to think on another level."

Although she has been a professional for barely six years, Shauna has toured many dif-

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ferent countries including Canada, Japan, Korea and all over Europe. She has also played with a variety of different orchestras, from the smallest amateur community orchestra to the English Chamber Orchestra. She says she has no particular favorite to work with because they are so diverse and each gives her "a different sort of pleasure." She loves all kinds of music but feels particularly drawn to the classical and romantic eras. In terms of a favorite performing situation she enjoys chamber music very much, but favors playing solo with orchestra.

When not touring she behaves as would any typical 18 year old by listening to rock music, reading and skiing in Banff where she lives. Like many young people she has not yet decided what she wants to do in the future. Having graduated from high school in 1984, she took this year as an interim year off between formal studies. She doesn't feel university is what she wants "right now," but feels she would like to spend some time in a larger center like New York and study privately.

The Rolston Trio is now beginning to move apart, a gradual and conscious movement that began actively in the Banff Center and Shauna will move on to pursue a career of her own.



Eighteen year old Shauna Rolston of the Rolston Trio.

Bravo Shauna....

By JENNIFER MCKENZIE

Last Friday night the Playhouse was transplanted into the home of Thomas Rolston and his daughter Shauna to share in the high level of music which has become a part of their daily lives.

Shauna Rolston is seventeen and has been playing the cello since she was two. Her father is a violinist and they were joined by Gloria Saarinen on the piano to complete the Rolston Trio who performed on Friday, March 15. Usually Shauna's mother plays the piano but she was unable to accompany them on this tour.

Mr. Rolston began the concert with some Bartok which was intended to introduce us to the two string players. He asked the audience to watch their "bow games" as Shauna and father played the four duos. The pieces demonstrated their excellent bow technique but they were not very pleasing to

the ear.

Two more duos that were written specifically for the father-daughter team by Violet Archer familiarized the audience further with the friendly performers.

The concert then became a little more serious with Halvorsen's *Passacaglia for Violin and Cello after Handel*. The concert was clearly focussed on the young virtuoso on the cello. She was featured in all of the pieces as well as having her own solo. She beautifully performed the *Suite no. 1 for Cello in G major by J.S. Bach*. Her excellent technique was evident again and each movement was musically complete and pleasing to the ear. The whole suite was broken up and could only be brought together by years of experience which Shauna has yet to acquire.

The third member of the trio finally made her appearance with Shauna and performed

Adagio and Allegro for Cello and Piano in A flat by Shumann. The level of piano playing fit the concert and made the piano-cello duo a lovely piece to hear.

The last half of the concert brought all three performers together on stage to play Beethoven's *Trio in D major*. The three musicians worked very well together and the piece was a wonderful success.

It seemed a bit odd to have Shauna on stage with two such obviously experienced performers but Shauna more than held her own and expertly showed her technique and musical ability.

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