

GATEWAY TO THE arts

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1963

Another season of music, drama, and art is here.

With it, comes Gateway's arts page, a section of the campus paper devoted to reviews, reports, and announcements of cultural events on and about campus.

Why a fine arts page? Our reasons are many. Artists deserve publicity, audiences want information, young critics hope to win experience

Artistic endeavors are a major part of campus life; they deserve representation in the campus newspaper. We ask your interest. We hope for your approval. B.G.

Chamber Music Society Opens With Quartette

By Michael Massey

The Edmonton Chamber Music society opened this year's series of concerts last Wednesday in Convocation Hall with a recital by the New Danish String Quartette.

The program, although well-balanced and offering many enjoyable moments, did not come up to the standards to be expected from such an ensemble.

The evening started with a performance of Mozart's "Hunt" Quartette. This was played with good spirit, but due to too many rhythmic irregularities on the part of the first violinist, lacked the clarity essential to Mozart. In the first and last movements this was especially evident, perhaps due in the last to beginning too fast a tempo. The highlight of the quartette was the slow movement, played with much warmth and excellent balance of tone.

Next came the Quartette in F Major by the little-known Danish composer, Carl Nielsen. The question was raised by members of the audience after the performance; does Nielsen's music belong to the romantic school? Nielsen was strongly opposed to romanticism as the late 19th century exaggerated it; he believed in representing his thoughts and feelings exactly. In this respect, he is a true artist and subscribes to no school.

The Danish Quartette seemed more at home in this style than with Mozart. The instruments succeeded in capturing the mood of each movement: the restfulness of the first; the sublime "religioso" of the second; the smooth flow of third, with its

sudden bursts of humor (recalling the allegretto of Beethoven's eighth symphony) and its gracefully gay finale.

Beethoven's Razumovsky Quartette, Opus 59, concluded the concert. On the whole, the performance lacked a sense of structure. This was again due to unsteady rhythms. Moreover, the dynamic range was not great enough. Softer pianissimos would have better accented the forte passages. The second movement, however, was well-played, with good balance of tone and broad, expressive, lines. The last movement began at much too fast a tempo. This movement must be played with the powerful drive so characteristic of this period of Beethoven's life; (the work was written in 1806, just after such works as the "Walstein" and "Appassionata" sonatas and the Eroica Symphony). The Danish Quartette could neither hold the fast tempo nor express adequately at this speed the dramatic excitement of the fugue.

The cellist, in my opinion, was the most outstanding instrumentalist of the four; he exhibited excellent tone and a sound knowledge of ensemble playing. The first violinist played with a brilliant tone, rather than the warm, blending tone essential in good quartette playing.

Although the Danish String Quartette showed a good knowledge of music, and displayed interesting interpretations, the performance lacked the polish one expects of a professional group. The concert, thus, was in general rather disappointing.



NEW DANISH STRING QUARTETTE

Arts Calendar

- Friday, Oct. 18—
Witold Malcuzyński
All-Chopin piano recital
Jubilee Auditorium
- Sunday, Oct. 20—
Edmonton Symphony Society Concert
Zoltan Rozsnyai, guest conductor
Irene Jordan, guest artist
Jubilee Auditorium
3 and 9 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 21—
Edmonton Film Society
Nights of Cabiria
Jubilee Auditorium
- Oct. 21-Nov. 4—
Exhibit of drawings and paintings
Ihor Dmytryk
Arts Building, second floor

"Sophisticated - Spicy"

AMPHITRYON 38

Giraudoux

Studio Theatre

Old Education Building

8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 29

thru

Saturday, Nov. 2

TWOFORS

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2 Reserved seats for the price of one Wednesday, Oct. 30, Thursday, Oct. 31