

Soprano shines in Menotti's opera

The Consul
Convocation Hall
Feb. 7 & 8

review by Juanita Spears

Opening night jitters notwithstanding, the music department's production of Menotti's *The Consul* was very well received.

A record of one family's struggle against political oppression, Menotti's *The Consul* is a demanding work and the cast was up to the challenge at hand.

Soprano, Sandra Babbel, absolutely shone in the role of Magda. Her aria in the second act was the musical highlight of the evening. Magda pleads with the secretary for permission to see the consul. The aria called for a tonal richness and maturity rarely seen in younger singers. Babbel, a mere twenty-four, delivered with style.

Babbel brought not only her pleasant voice to the part, she further enhanced the work with a dramatic presence which left the audience convinced that this woman was Magda. In the suicide scene Babbel was superb, invoking pity while never overacting.

Though the cast appeared somewhat shaky in the first act, they caught their breath and were off and running by the second.

Edward Green as Magda's husband John gave a vocally strong performance, though at times he lacked some of the dramatic flourish necessary for serious opera.

Viola Wallbank as the mother gave an amusing performance during the lullaby aria. Overall Wallbank was solid and poised.

Alan Ord played the Secret Police Agent. While mature of voice and presence, he might have been a little more nefarious.

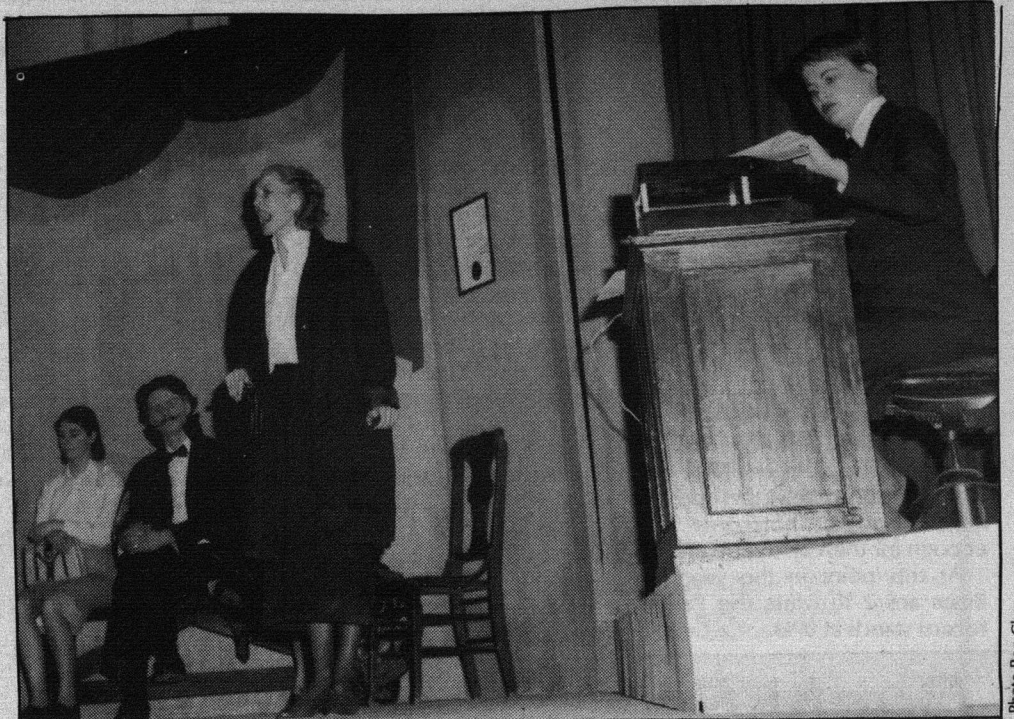
Laurier Fagnan (Mr. Kofner), Gerhard Kruschke (the magician), and other supporting roles rounded out the cast.

An abbreviated St. Cecilia Orchestra provided the accompaniment. Though they had a tendency to overpower the younger voices in Act I, they achieved a more harmonious balance in the second and third acts.

Though intonation was suspect at times, the orchestra added much colour and depth to the performance. Of note were a number of solos from the pit, particularly from the brass section.

Theresa O'Hara's cleverly designed set enhanced the production. Center stage revolved, making scene changes effortless. The stage left wall was opaque and served a dual purpose both as a scene with images projected on it and a wall. During Magda's suicide, images depicting her tormented state of mind were visible through the screen making for a haunting spectacle.

Despite minor flaws, opening night of *The Consul* was a production of which the music department could be proud. It reflected their dedication to their art and a desire for quality performances.



The cast of *The Consul*

Photo: Ron Checora

"Vienna calling" next hit

Falco-3
Falco
A & M

review by Hans Beckers

Falco. The name sounds familiar, right? Of course it does.

In 1982 this Austrian fellow had a highly danceable hit called "Der Kommissar". Most recently he has re-entered the charts with "Rock me Amadeus".

If you've heard either of these songs you know what their common denominator is: danceability. Making you want to dance is exactly what this album is all about. Of the eleven songs on this LP, eight are definite dancefloor hopefuls. All eight are quite successful in their endeavour. In these, Falco combines different vocal styles; sometimes rapping, sometimes singing, and sometimes both - all while slipping in and out of German to add a word or two in English.

The best songs on 3 are the ones where

Falco sings/raps primarily in his native tongue. When singing in German he sings with what appears to be a great deal of confidence. As well, for some unknown reason, he keeps all his best dance beats for his German songs.

The two songs he attempts in English, "Nothin' sweeter than Arabia" and "It's all over now, Baby Blue" (a Dylan song), would have been better left off the album. On both, his voice struggles and the music, while interesting on "...Baby Blue", does not flow well with the rest of the album.

The songs to listen for on 3, besides the two versions of "Amadeus" (both are quite different from each other, and equally interesting), are "America", "Tango the night", "Jeanny" and especially his next hit (prediction! prediction!), "Vienna calling".

All these songs have two things in common; Falco makes a good use of his appealing singing/rapping style and perhaps more importantly, he does so in German.



The Album Playlist is based on Airplay — a combination of programmer preference and listeners' requests. Tune in every Sunday at 12:00 for the Alternative Countdown — the favorite albums, EP's singles and tapes.

Albums

1. *Sturn Grop* — Century Ho! (Green Fuse (Canada))
2. *Various Artists* — Diamond Hidden In The Mouth Of A Corpse (Giorno Poetry Systems (US))
3. *Fine Young Cannibals* — Find Young Cannibals (IRS/MCA)
4. *Kommunity FK* — Close One Sad Eye (Independent Project (US))
5. *Malcolm McLaren* — Swamp Thing (Virgin/A & M)
6. *Cocleau Twins* — Tiny Dynamine/Echoes In A Shallow Bay (4AD/Vertigo/Polygram)
7. *Marti Jones* — Unsophisticated Time (A & M)
8. *Bruce Cockburn* — World Of Wonder (True North/CBS)
9. *Young Fresh Fellows* — Topsy Turvy (Poplama/Park Avenue (US))
10. *Gregory Isaacs* — Private Beach Party (RAS/Attic/A & M)

Singles, EP's and Tapes

1. *Golden Calgarians* — Guitar Curse (Golden Rock (Canada))
2. *Stepford Husbands* — Seeing Is Believing/I'm Rode Out (Cryptovision (US))
3. *X Mal Deutschland* — Sequenz (Fundamental (US))
4. *Euthanasia* — Will (demo)
5. *Junior Gone Wild* — Go On Your Way (demo)
6. *Slow* — Against The Glass (Zulu (Can))
7. *4th Floor* — 4th Floor (Zesty Pete (Can))
8. *Feargal Sharkey* — Feargal Sharkey (Virgin/A & M)
9. *The Langham Wheel (Michael Turner)* — To Valerie (demo)
10. *Chris & Cosy* — Sweet Surprise (Rough Trade)

Contest



ational institution in n of the University of thousand dollars from

ality bondpaper. The appear on each page

, 1986. No late entries

ggregate.

sd by the judges will h 27, 1986. The Gate- ts to ... that the author.

ST, c/o Suzanne Lun- y of Alberta, T6G 2G7.

DOUGLAS ROCHE

Ambassador For Peace And Disarmament To

The United Nations

WILL SPEAK ON:

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS:

Recent Developments And Prospects For Peace

Date: Friday, February 14, 1986

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 PM

Place: SUB Theatre

(2nd Floor Students Union Building)

Sponsored by: U of A Group For Nuclear Disarmament And University Nuclear Disarmament Organization

Reading Week SPECIAL

GRADUATION PORTRAITS

ONLY \$10.00 Portrait Fee

includes — Minimum of 10 poses to choose
— formal/casual poses
— B/W for yearbook or Class photo

Receive previews within 3 wk of your session

Call 463-1161 for your Appointment

lorne strymecki
professional photography ltd.

9503-42 avenue.
edmonton.alberta.t6e5r2

Forthcoming Student Vacancies On Standing Committees Of General Faculties Council

COMMITTEE	VACANCIES	
	Graduate	Undergraduate
GFC Executive (must be a member of GFC)		1
Academic Appeals Committee	Regular members	2
	Alternate members	4
Admissions & Transfer Committee (One student must be a transferee from an Albertan college)		3
Academic Development Committee		1
Campus Law Review Committee		1
Computing Committee	1	2
Conference Funds	1	1
Library Committee	1	2
Native Studies Committee		Four Students
Committee for the Improvement of Teaching & Learning	1	3
Undergraduate Scholarship Committee		2
Writing Competence Committee	1	2
University Disciplinary Panels	10	10
Council on Student Services (COSS) (1 undergraduate student must be a member of GFC)	1	2
Undergraduate Teaching Awards Committee		2
Undergraduate Scholarship Committee		2
University Professor Selection Committee	1	1

A vacancy may occur on the Planning and Priorities Committee and the Facilities Development Committee for an undergraduate student.

Would those who are interested in serving on any of the Committees please contact Mrs. Plaskitt, Secretary to the Nominating Committee at 2-5 University Hall from whom further information can be obtained.