

Fraser and Friends coming Feb. 4

Fraser and Friends, the first Canadian jazz group to tour the Soviet Union under the Soviet-Canadian Cultural Exchange Treaty, appear in Fredericton on Feb. 4 at the Playhouse.

This trio, consisting of Fraser MacPherson, Oliver Gannon and Wyatt Ruther, has established an international reputation among concert enthusiasts and jazz buffs alike, as Canada's leading ambassadors of soft, smooth sound.

Their appearance in Fredericton is part of an extensive cross-Canada tour during 1979-80 from British Columbia to Newfoundland.

Fraser MacPherson formed the Fraser & Friends Trio in 1975 and within two months they were working on a recording which was to become the hit of the Canadian jazz world. When the recording entitled "Fraser, Live at the Planetarium" was featured by the prestigious Stereo Review as "Jazz Record of the Month" it was a sign that the man-long recognized in Vancouver as the patriarch of Western Jazz Players - was at last to be accorded recognition throughout the Jazz world.

The Trio's Soviet tour during the 78-79 season was booked for nine concerts and wound up with thirteen Standing Room Only performances squashed into ten days of hectic concertizing, including appearances in Leningrad and Moscow.

Said a leading Soviet jazz musician after meeting with Fraser and hearing the Trio at work, "Our jazz scene will never be the same again."

Mr. MacPherson is now planning a major tour of Japan for 1981-82 and new recordings are due on the jazz scene on the Concord label during the current season.

Mr. MacPherson's formula for concert success reads like a recipe for a perfect musical soufflé. Light and frothy on the outside; fluid rich and creamy on the inside. Full bodied and luxurious to the palate of the taster...

Take the West's leading Sax and flute man; add a pinch of that rugged Western individualism which made him produce his own best selling disc on a West Coast label; shake well, along with a legitimate but subtly amplified guitar and acoustic bass, and you the West's newest Jazz hit.

On the Canadian continental network scene, anyone who ever listened to Jazz-Radio-Canada knows the name of MacPherson, but his colleagues to the new Trio were busy making Jazz history with such well-known names as Dave Brubeck, Erroll Garner, Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

Mr. MacPherson was born in Winnipeg and raised in Victoria B.C. He has been working in Vancouver since 1949, directing and leading bands in night clubs for 20 years. He is probably best

known for his 23 years of regular broadcasts on JAZZ RADIO CANADA. For 15 years he has been a band leader accompanying personalities such as Tony Bennett, Ella Fitzgerald, Al Martino, Mitzi Gaynor, Anthony Newley...the list goes on. His style of jazz has been compared to Lester Young and Zoot Sims. His internationally acclaimed album "Fraser: Live at the Planetarium" was featured in the Jan. issue of STEREO REVIEW and hailed as the Jazz Record of the Month.

Guitarist Oliver Gannon is a graduate from the Berklee School of Music in Boston. Stereo Review has compared Mr. Gannon's playing to that of Charlie Christian because, "like Charlie Christian, Oliver Gannon plays an amplified guitar which-unlike the electric guitar-retains some of the tonal qualities of its Spanish ancestor. His touch is delicate, his technique is flawless and he has the soulfulness of Django Reinhardt and obvious influence." Mr. Gannon's solo is John Lewis Django number is a "hauntingly beautiful tribute to the late Belgian guitarist. He is also a member of the Pacific Salt Jazz Group as well as Bob Hales Big Band.

Bassist Wyatt Ruther has performed with the great Duke Ellington Orchestra, Ms. Lena Horne, and the Buddy Rich Orchestra



The jazz trio led by Fraser MacPherson will be appearing at the Playhouse Feb. 4. Students admitted FREE

N.B. native featured at Noontime Series

By PAM SAUNDERS



MADELINE DEWOLFE Photo

Contralto Patricia Rideout (r) appeared in recital at d'Avray Hall Jan. 22, with pianist Carol Birch.

Patricia Rideout, a contralto with the Canadian Opera Company performed at the UNB Noontime Series Tuesday, Jan. 22. Rideout is a St. John native who has established an international reputation in opera, oratorio, art song and contemporary vocal music. Given this reputation, her performance was disappointing, particularly during the first half of the programme.

Rideout was not at ease until after the first three selections. Purcell's "If Music be the Food of Love", Ernest Chausson's "Le Temps des Lilas" and Gabriel Pierné's "Le Moulin". An unevenness in tone quality, particularly on the lower register, was evident. Rideout did display the dramatic control one would expect from an opera singer in the French songs.

The next selection *Evocations* was a cycle of four pieces written for Rideout by the Canadian composer Harry Somers in 1967: Noon, Shattered Light, And The Day Spinneth Away, Moon Cracks. She explained that these pieces were written to evoke "things felt from Harry's past," the loon and the cold crisp nights of Northern Ontario, the passing of time and man's mortality.

Somers uses an instrumental approach to vocal music which is interesting but not compelling. The voice imitated the cry of the loon, the winding down of a clock, the shriek of nightmare panic. Unusual effects were achieved by vocalizing into the piano strings and tapping the piano. Rideout

met the demands of the work, but it remained artificial and contrived.

The second half began with *A Charm of Lullabies* by Benjamin Britten, five contrasting lullabies based on English folk songs. Rideout was noticeably more relaxed and sang with control and naturalness. The highpoint of the recital was the closing selection, *Cantos de Espana* by Miguel Landoval. If this recital is any indication, Rideout is most at ease

singing folksongs.

The recital was hampered by the inadequacies of the piano at d'Avray Hall. UNB suffers from a lack of instruments of high quality, which is frustrating to performers and audiences alike. Despite free admission for students to the recital, thanks to the Creative Arts Committee, very few students were present. The recital was also sponsored by the Provincial Department of Youth, Recreation and Culture.

Fine arts events

The mid winter gloom will be lightened with a few fine arts events on the UNB campus. Halifax artist Carol Fraser will give a lecture on "The Tree in Western Art" and UNB Resident musician Arlene Nimmons Pach will again offer several of the lecture/performance for which she has become so well known.

Mrs Pach has scheduled an informal lecture series on "The Literature of the Piano, Trends and Treasures" on Wednesday evenings and she will entertain the lunchtime audience at the Student

Union Building's Woodshed coffee house on Thursdays.

Both series run for three weeks, Jan. 23-Feb. 7. The lecture series will be held at 7:30 in Memorial Hall, Room 23 (the resident musicians studio on the second floor). There will be a \$5 registration fee for the series and participants are asked to register in advance by calling 453-4697 between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The Woodshed appearances like those Mrs. Pach did last winter will be free, and geared to the interests of the audience. Bag lunches will be quite in order, as Mrs. Pach will perform at 12:30 p.m.

At the Harriet Irving Library

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