



75th Anniversary 1908 - 1983



Arts? Give me more!

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part of the chorus. 1931 saw them collaborating for the operetta *The Bohemian Girl*. In 1935 the Philharmonic Society staged Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and in 1954 it was Humperdinck's opera *Hansel and Gretel*.

Many other orchestral and choral groups have also started on campus, with mixed success. The Mixed Chorus, which has been a success, was organized in 1944. Varsity Varieties had a 15-piece pit orchestra. The University Musical Club advertised a Saturday concert in 1959 with "the Three B's— Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms".

Prof. Richard S. Eaton, after whom the Richard Eaton Singers are named, used to lead the Mixed Chorus to "successful concerts in Con. Hall" during the Fifties.

Rather interesting-sounding groups ("the Rimanoczy string quartet") have visited campus to play here, and change stole cautiously upon the musical tastes of some (Friday Feb. 21, 1958: University Symphony plays Haydn's Symphony No. 88 in G major and selections from "My Fair Lady").

The completion of the Jubilee Auditorium in 1957 provided a marvelous venue for the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Apparently their best concert of 1959 included the music of Weber, Beethoven and Mussorgsky.

But the Pop music scene on campus has always been lively in its own right. Beginning with the Dance Orchestra, "A Faithful Band and Few", students could boogie to the latest in dance tunes. The Res students had their own Jazz Orchestra in 1922, and by 1930 the "Varsity Six" were playing "Saturday night hops".

Such local favorites as the "RCAF Tactical Air Command band" came 'round in the Fifties. This was the age when Elvis was king and everyone was a "bobby-soxer": "Approximately 1,000 sock-clad students attended the annual post-Christmas dance in the drill-hall.

After a meeting of the Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Society you might attend "a short dance in the mixed lounge to the recorded music of Jackie Gleason" Or you could dance every Friday and Saturday night at the Rainbow Ballroom to

the music of "Billy Boyer and his Rhythm Knights". "The Crew-Cuts appear at the Sales Pavilion Friday, Jan. 17, 1958."

Jazz had its heyday— October 7, 1960 jazz bandleader Stan Kenton appeared at Homecoming. Unfortunately, crowds didn't... the SU lost about \$7,500. Some things never change— the controversy continued for a month.

Con. Hall once rang with the sound of folk songs by Ewan McColl and Peggy Seeger. The Folk Music Society brought in folk singer Odetta, and the Oranim Zabar singers (from Israel).

Campus Radio began as CKUA, then as CKSR, then became the CJSR we know and think fondly of. The Radio Society's slogan was "We have your capital— let's have your interest." They boasted of playing "Jazz cool as Grace Kelly in a glass case".

The visual arts have had a following here at the U, but have suffered reversals and had a few ups and downs. Jens Andersen laughed controllably when he heard this: on October 15, 1954 a Science student discovered that "a modernistic Art display on the third floor of the Arts building (had) been hanging upside-down for the last two weeks". The painting was Gordon Wheeler's *Abstract Compositional*.

The Edmonton Film Society has, for over three decades now, been adding to the student's aesthetic life by bringing in the latest movies from around the world.

Speakers of note have also been brought in for the "mental emolument of the hoi-polloi" (to steal a phrase). British poet, critic, and novelist Stephen Spender spoke on campus in 1958 about the "angry young men" in England and the "beat generation" in the U.S.

Not to forget the Francophone community— the French Club on campus had rather inauspicious origins, i.e. "When Mr. Sonet spoke on his post-war (WW I) impressions of France there was a record attendance and nobody went away disappointed". Must have been a dull era.

All in all, the arts life on and about the University is slightly impossible to summarize, so I realize this has been a scattergun look at highlights. Hopefully this has given you a wee bit of insight into our colorful, unusual, and dynamic history in the Arts.

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