

Entertainment

String quartet forgoes luxury

by Juanita Spears

Though the future of the Seranata String Quartet beyond August 1986 is a hazy one, the group is determined to be as musically active as possible in the interim. Three of the four members are leaving Alberta to pursue their musical studies in other provinces. Their second violinist, John Radosh, is the only one remaining to study at the U of A next fall.

The youthful foursome, Rebecca Whitling, 18, John Radosh, 19, Glenn Archibald, 22, and Ian Woodman, 19, collectively bring to the group over 35 years of musical experience — almost one-half of their combined lifetimes.

Rebecca, the principal violinist, began studying fiddle at age 3. John, in contrast, always wanted to play violin and at 10 made his debut on his grandfather's 76 yr. old violin; an instrument he still plays today.

At 13, Glenn had no such choice in the matter. Victim of the age old problem of "not enough viola players", the school orchestra's conductor "guided" him to choose the viola. Violin was Ian's first choice, but his mother had different views on the subject. "She wouldn't allow me to practice it (violin) in the house, so I had to pick one that squeaked in a lower octave. So (at age 8), I picked the cello," explains Ian.

Though Ian is the only one attending the U of A, all quartet members are active in university ensembles, namely the Academy of Strings and the St. Cecilia Orchestra. Also active with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra as sectional principals, the group hopes to be featured in Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro* for string quartet and chamber orchestra during EYO's European tour this summer.

The quartet's rehearsals are relaxed, yet controlled; free of the power struggles that often plague chamber groups. "Well it certainly wasn't always the case. We have gone through several membership changes since we began (in April 1984) and have had our share of tension-filled rehearsals. But that isn't a problem anymore."

Though rehearsals are serious business for these young musicians, well-placed jokes ease the tension. They meet for 3 hrs/week unless upcoming gigs require more time.

Though the quartet usually draws on its own resources when working on new repertoire, it has brought in outside experts for coaching sessions Norman Nelsen (Prof. of violin, U of A) and Larry Fisher (retired U of A, 1985) are among those who have helped out in the past.

The economic recession has not been kind to the arts. In a time when cutbacks are as numerous as tourists to West Edmonton Mall, performing artists were among the first



The Seranata String Quartet; "It's not like we ply ourselves with Beethoven 29 hours a day."

to feel the crunch. In Edmonton the market for chamber group gigs is a competitive one.

Nevertheless, the Seranata Quartet is holding its own. The members are in the enviable position of making a respectable portion of their income by doing something that they love — making music. The quartet members supplement their incomes with teaching positions and part time jobs.

Despite the fact that becoming professional musicians will curtail their earning power (classical musicians are only one step above welfare recipients), they unanimously agree that they "couldn't imagine doing anything else." "Who would want to sit behind a desk doing something you hate until you're 65?" Ian points out.

John jumped at the opportunity to dispell misconceptions about classical musicians. "People go to concerts and see orchestral players in tails and all somber — as they should be — and they get this idea that they (musicians) are all hyper-serious people, that everything circles around music and that they have no social skills. Which indeed they do. ... party I mean. We can assure everyone of that."

"We like to listen to popular music too" Ian adds, "It's not like we ply ourselves with Beethoven 29 hours a day." While Glenn has a preference for New Wave and the Eurythmics, Rebecca offers her vote for Simon and Garfunkel. John and Ian concur that they "like everything but country."

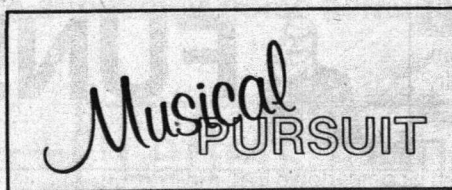
John points out that, "people don't consider music a legitimate career. When you consider all the time invested over the

years. ... its as legitimate as anything else." Ian challenges. ... "I'd like to see everyone turn off all the radios in the world for a day (stereos and t.v.'s for that matter) and see how people like it with no music. Yet still

there are those who say there is no place for music."

When asked if they had any closing remarks as a quartet, they responded. ... "Yes, we're up for hire!"

Keeping up with the Smiths



by Don Teplyske

Love 'em or hate 'em, The Smiths are one of the most prominent bands in all of hip-dorn. Today, Musical Pursuit, focuses four questions on Morrissey and his chums, in addition to the random queries you have come to expect.

Readers may drop answers at the Gateway office, Room 282 SUB, until Saturday - slip it under the door. The entrant with the most correct responses will be awarded a five dollar Auracle Records token.

Congratulations to Kim Baker who is last week's winner.

1. What is Morrissey's first name?
2. For what British female vocalist did the Smiths produce "Hand In Glove"?
3. To what record label are The Smiths signed to for North America? For England?
4. What is interesting about the way Morris-

sey wears his shirts?

5. B.B. King contributed three tracks to the soundtrack of this movie starring Jeff Goldblum

6. What was the theme of the 1985 project featuring members of X and the Blasters which recorded the album *Poor Little Critter On The Road*?

7. Which Van Halen tune has Roddy Frame's Aztec Camera recorded?

8. In reference to the McCoy's "Hang On Sloopy", is Sloopy male or female?

9. What was the title of k.d. lang's first single on Bumstead Records?

Last week's answers

1. Dave Edmunds originally recorded "I Knew The Bride"
2. *Solo in Soho* was Philip Lynott's first solo album
3. CBS released, in this order, "Dancing in the Dark", "Cover Me", "Born in the USA", "I'm On Fire", "Glory Days", "I'm Goin' Down" and "My Hometown"
4. Patrick Hernandez recorded "Born to be Alive"
5. "Strawberry Letter #23"
6. The Flirts sang "Jukebox"
7. Thomas Dolby produced Prefab's second album
8. R.E.M. record for I.R.S.
9. Bauhaus and Tones on Tails spawned Love and Rockets
10. Nick Lowe married Carlene Carter.

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present

k.d.lang

and the Reclines

plus guests The Screamin' Roosters



Friday, January 17

— 8 pm

Bumstead
Productions



Tuesday, January 14, 1986



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, FP's singles and tapes.

Albums

1. *Braineater* — Artist Poet Thief (Independent Canada)
2. *Albert Collins, Johnny Copeland & Robert Cray* — Showdown (Alligator/WEA)
3. *Noev* — Dusk and Desire (Profile US)
4. *Thomas Mapfumo & The Blacks Unlimited* — Mr. Music (Earthworks/Rough Trade/WEA)
5. *Queen Ida & Her Zydeco Band* — Caught In The Act (GNP/Crescendo US)
6. *Various Artists* — More Coffee For The Politicians (Placebo US)
7. *Blue Wisp Big Band* — Rollin' With Von Ohlen (Mopro US)
8. *The Waiting* — Self-titled (The Waiting Canada)
9. *Carla Bley* — Night-Glo (WATT/ECM/WEA)
10. *Living Proof* — This Trip Is For Real (100%/Independent Canada)

Singles, EP's and Tapes

1. *Full Time Man* — Self-titled (Coyote/Twintone US)
2. *David Sylvian* — Words With The Shaman (Virgin/A & M)
3. *Night Twisters* — Self-titled (Tango Canada)
4. *U.I.C.* — I've Got Nerve (Tape)
5. *Psycho* — Thundershowers In Ivory Towers (Mass Production Canada)
6. *Angst* — Love Dissolves/Lite Life (SST US)
7. *Severed Heads* — Dead Eyes Opened (Nettwerk Canada)
8. *Emily* — Propaganda (Tape)
9. *Klaus Flouride* — Chachacha With Mr. Flouride (Alternative Tentacles US)
10. *Ministry* — Over The Shoulder (SIRE/WEA)