

The Gateway fine arts

d'ye ken con hall artwise

Kiddies! Have you ever had a faint suspicion that there's more to poetry than gets into "Creative Living", that cesspool among textbooks?

Have you ever wondered about jazz? Or about Creative Dance? Or about Con Hall? (We all wonder about Con Hall.)

Well, here's your chance to swing, because as part of the First Annual Fine Arts Festival at U. of A. (masterminded by Tom Radford, with Rhoda Lilje, Clare Cragg, Bill Coull and Dave Emerson ably assisting) there's a big bash on tonight, with an Experimental Jazz Band, the Orchestis

Creative Dancers, and three (count 'em!) living (listen to 'em breathe!) poets!

The band belongs to Zen Magnus, and plays some of the most interesting jazz in Edmonton.

The Orchestis Creative Dancers are interested (our Dance Correspondent informs us), in the creation of free form in dance. Dance movements are adapted to interpret music or an abstract or concrete idea.

But of course (editorial bias) the most interesting part of the evening will be the readings by Wilfred Watson, Eli Mandel, and Robin Mathews.

Dr. Watson's book of poetry, "Friday's Child", received a great deal of critical acclaim when it appeared in 1955. Since then, Dr. Watson's style has changed radically; indeed, one is never sure what Dr. Watson will do next.

His most recent verse has been influenced, surely, by his success in writing for the stage both of Studio Theatre and (especially) the Yardbird Suite.

Dr. Mandel is the author of "Fuseli Poems" and, most recently, "Black and Secret Man"; a new book in preparation. Rather a lot of his poems deal with the evil and pain inherent in the world's mystery. One wouldn't think to look at him that he is one of Canada's most terrifying poets; but he is.

Professor Mathews has been described by Irving Layton as "one of Canada's most useful trouble-makers". It will be nice to see him in public reading poetry rather than statements, though to be sure the magnificent thing about his statements has always

been their poetry, their wonderful flair.

"Whatever else, poetry is freedom", says Irving Layton. Why not strike a blow for freedom and turn up tonight at Con Hall?

on the musical scene

Conversation among various illustrious composers overheard on the heights of Olympus, and transcribed by Calliope (Muse of the Steam-Organ):

(A select group of composers is standing around, munching ambrosia and chatting languidly. Among them are Mozart, Handel, Beethoven, and Fauré. Boccherini rushes in, out of breath.)

Boccherini: Gee gosh, gang! Guess what! The music department of the University of Alberta is playing my Cello Concerto in their VGW Concerto Concert Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

Beethoven: Is anything else of yours ever played anywhere?

Boccherini: Well, I mean, gee, gosh Ludwig, that's hardly fair. Mozart: What else is that sterling group of musicians playing?

Boccherini: Lots and lots of your music, Wolfgang—two of your violin concertos, and your Piano Concerto K.488.

Mozart: Excellent! The violin concertos are quite charming, and that piano concerto is one of the many best things I ever wrote. I suppose student soloists are to be used. I was quite amazed at the quality of their performances the last time they presented a concert.

Boccherini: Yes, that's right, Wolfgang. And you needn't look so glum, G.F.; they're also playing one of your organ concertos. Handel (harumphing): Well, harumph, I mean, well damn Sir, they always have been a good lot.

Beethoven: Humbug!

Boccherini: Same to you with knobs on, Ludwig. You're just sore because you can never live down having written "Wellington's Victory".

(Beethoven whistles entirety of "Der Grosse Fuge" snidely out of the side of his mouth. An unseemly scuffle ensues.)

Fauré: How common!

(Rossini strolls in, dressed as Figaro in "The Barber of Seville"). Rossini: Gentlemen, I'm surprised at you! Halt, desist, and/or forbear!

(Pause ensues, while halting, desisting, and/or forbearing occurs.) Rossini: Ludwig, mon vieux, have you heard? The University of Alberta Music Department is playing your B-Flat Trio at their Staff Concert Saturday night.

Beethoven (mollified): Moomph. How nice. Who's playing it?

Rossini (reading from program): "Ernest Dalwood, clarinetist; Claude Kenneson, cellist; Ross Pratt, pianist."

(They all crowd 'round the program. There is a pause, then all begin to murmur.)

Handel: Harumph. They're playing a Walton Violin Sonata. Good chap, Walton.

Mozart: And a trio of your, Fauré. (Fauré glows.)

Boccherini: And a Fantasia for Cello and Piano by Kodaly. That fellow's music isn't bad, albeit no-one writes for the cello as well as I did.

Fauré: Oh, do be quiet, Luigi, or we'll get Papa Haydn to thrash you.

Boccherini (sullenly): Well anyways, I bet you don't know that they're also presenting a B. Mus.-student recital, Saturday morning.

Mozart: Oh really? What are they playing?



—Al Scarth photo

THE PENSIVE PAGANINI POSE—Professor Thomas Rolston of the U of A music department suppresses his natural vivacity to muse for a moment on the First Annual Fine Arts Festival, an exciting new feature of VGW. Professor Rolston will be playing in the Faculty Recital Saturday night in Con Hall, and directing the Chamber Orchestra Concerto that afternoon, same place.

Beethoven: The mind boggles. (Haydn walks in. He has heard Beethoven's last remark.) Haydn: Maybe yours does, Ludwig, my boy. Heh, heh. (Beethoven scowls. At this point, Johann Sebastian Bach totters in with his 23 children. They all gather 'round him.) 23 Children (loudly): Can we papa? Can we please, papa?? J.S. Bach: Can you what, my little ones?

23 Children: Can we go and listen to Mr. Wagner tell us all about when he was in the Revolution of 1848?

(J. S. Bach frowns, but before he can answer, the whole group is overrun and trampled by a rush of people consisting of Wagner and a troop of pugnacious helden-tens, hotly pursued by George Bernard Shaw and Ernest Newman.)

Fauré (propping himself up on his elbow): What about Alsace-Lorraine? eh? What about Alsace-Lorraine?

Wagner (jumping up on down on him): Götterdämmerung!!

Fauré (weakly): You cad! No gentleman would use a word like that!

(23 Bach Children throw themselves into the fray, while Shaw stands back with a look of scorn on his face. Someone on the ground siezes Shaw's ankle, and pulls him down. Utter chaos prevails, and the whole scene is enveloped in clouds of dust. In fact, it is all rather like Varsity Guest Weekend.)

art letter from the new world

Dear Ferdinand,

Things are every bit as exciting over here in the New World as Christopher promised. I wish you were here. Really, you don't know what you're missing.

Like for instance, this weekend, in conjunction with VGW (sort of a ritual-initiation among the natives) we will see the First Annual Festival of the Fine Arts. Nice to be in on the ground floor!

Lots is going on; HAPPENING, even. What's a happening? Want your groin shaved? That's a happening. Failing that, Bob Game has promised to run amok twice daily.

And not only that! The Fine Arts Gallery, due east of the Arts Building on 112 Street, is exhibiting the work of the senior painting class. None of this Old-World-fruit-bowl stuff; these paintings swing!

Gallery hours are: Friday, 12 noon to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

The Arts Building is showing second- and senior-year drawings on its second and third floors respectively.

The Ed rotunda is housing a painting exhibit by three Edmonton artists, as well as a display of projects by the design students. A sculpture show by a local artist will be on exhibit at the Jubilee Auditorium.

So you see, Ferdinand, the New World is quite an exciting place. Optimistic, too; notice: "Annual Festival . . ." provided we don't get blown up, or annexed, or whatever else we happen to be anxious about. You know how it is.

Too bad about your friend Gib; I hear he went down kicking.

Love, Isabelle

fine arts festival

Painting and sculpture exhibits in the Arts Building, Education Building, and Fine Arts Gallery.

"A Session: Jazz, Poetry, Dance"

Con Hall, Friday, 10:30 p.m.
Admission \$1.00

Concert Band

Con Hall, Saturday, 11 a.m.
Admission free

Bachelor of Music Student Recital

Con Hall, Saturday, 12 noon
Admission free

Folk Concerts

Featuring the Wildwood Trio
Second Floor Arts Building
Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
Admission free

U of A Chamber Orchestra Concerto Concert

Conductors, Thomas Rolston and Claude Kenneson, and soloists John Lewis, Colin Miles, Elaine Spacinski, Judith Short, Kenneth Murdoch, Marlin Wolfe, Lois Upright and Eric Wilson
Con Hall, Saturday, 2:30 p.m.
Admission free

Department of Music Staff Recital

Featuring Thomas Rolston, Isobel Moor Rolston, Claude Kenneson, Ernest Dalwood, Ross Pratt and Sandra Munn
Con Hall, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
Admission \$1.50

"The Three Sisters" by Anton Chekhov

Studio Theatre, Friday and Saturday, 8:15 p.m.
Admission \$2.00