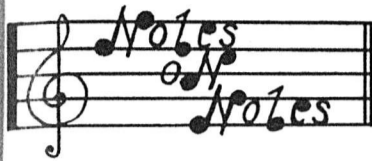


FINE ARTS



by Ross Rudolph

Nothing so much unites the spirits of George Bernard Shaw, Fiorello La Guardia and Adolf Schnicklgruber (whose spectre has recently been reported sighted in the precincts) as an abiding love for music.

Before abandoning the political sphere (Shaw was a prominent Fabian) one should liken the anomalous critic to the doctrinaire Communist politician, since both aim at their own disappearance, the politician becoming superfluous by the withering away of the state, and the critic by the development of a musically literate public. Yes, Virginia, there will always be a Gateway music critic.

The inauguration of this weekly column coincides with the opening of a new Edmonton Symphony Season. Our position concerning the orchestra is clear. It deserves praise for its accomplishments, censure for its faults. The symphony excites hosannas from its adherents and damnation from its detractors. It deserves neither. We feel that the orchestra must, and will, improve. "But," we are told, "this is Edmonton." For one, I am nauseated by Edmonton's being an apology for mediocrity.

Mr. Stanger's presence, on the basis of his past performance, inspired expectancy. When here last, he not only led an admirably prepared program but also introduced the **Prelude and Quadruple Fugue** by the gifted Alan Hovhaness.

The afternoon began with encomiums to the PPCLI and RCAF personnel, richly deserved. For the assistance the audience was subjected to some gargantuan Walton and Bach. Poor Bach! He once wrote a touching chorale in his Cantata 147 and ever since generations of arrangers have unmercifully violated it.

Why a thrice familiar, though eternally appealing Beethoven symphony must be repeated in less than two years, I cannot tell. The im-

pressive introduction was unfortunately not sustained. The fugato section of the first movement pinpointed all too clearly the expectable lapses in intonation and ensemble. One could question some of the balance of the symphony's allegretto, though this is probably a contentious matter of the conductor's taste rather than the orchestra's inattention. The tempo of the scherzo was nicely judged, though hardly a presto. The finale had suitable momentum.

Mr. Willard Straight has, with economy of material and an archaic form, produced a worthwhile essay, though not nearly the peer of Mr. Stanger's last "innovation," the Hovhaness selection. To cast slightly more light on the commission mentioned in the notes, Edward B. Benjamin established in 1953 an award for Restful Music. The effect of this organism by Mr. Straight is hardly soporific unless by comparison with what followed.

Tchaikowski's **Overture 1812** is a stereogery to which my ears have become insensate. Many people are impressed by the mass sawing, blowing, and pounding of 170 men as was proved by the thunderous demonstration at concert's end.

To sum: the concert was not up to Mr. Stanger's precedent.

Poet Reads Own Work

Irving Layton, Canadian poet, short story writer, and critic will be reading his own work at Convocation Hall, Friday, October 26, at 8:00 p.m. Student price is twenty-five cents.

Mr. Layton, one of Canada's most controversial writers and an excellent public performer is a noted poet. He has published a large number of books of poems. One of the most recent, **Red Carpet For the Sun**, was awarded the Governor General's Medal for Poetry.

Since then he has published a volume of prose and verse, entitled **The Swinging Flesh**, and is about to publish another volume called **Balls For a One Armed Juggler**. He is also responsible for a new volume to be published soon of Canadian love poems. The book is the joint effort of Layton and Harold Town, a Toronto artist. For forthrightness, candour, and artistic excellence, the love anthology is expected to be a Canadian literary event.

Mr. Layton's presence on campus is the result of a Canada Council grant to the sponsoring bodies, Focus Gallery and the English dept. He will be the first reader in a series of readings throughout the winter. Poets from other parts of Canada are being brought in to supplement a series presented by Edmonton writers, who last year included Wilfred Weston, Sheila Watson, Henry Kreisel, and Eli Mandel, all members of the Department of English.

Il Trovatore To Appear

How can fellow be thrown in a fire and come back 20 years later unscathed? Or who was thrown to the flames? Why?

How can a girl fall in love with a fellow after having seen him only once and then enter a convent?

Sounds confusing, but when muddled with the music of Verdi it amounts to a solid evening of entertainment. University students are entitled to shockingly low prices for the Alberta Opera Society's production of Verdi's **Il Trovatore** for the evening performance of October 25. Tickets are available at the Department of Extension in the South Lab.

The production, to take place in the Jubilee Auditorium, is under the direction of Jean Letourneau.

ARTS CALENDAR

Juno and the Paycock
Studio Theatre
October 18, 19, 20, 26, and 27

Il Travatore
Jubilee Auditorium
October 25-27.

Richard Leibert—organist **Celebrity Concerts**
Jubilee Auditorium
Tuesday, October 23

Young Artists Performing

Jeunesses Musicales, a world-wide organization of young people interested in music, is again this year offering Edmontonians a chance to hear great music performed by talented young artists from home and abroad.

Designed to increase immediacy, enjoyment, and comprehension, the four concerts scheduled for this year will include brief introductory comments on composers and instruments. The local organization plans after-concert chats in which members will have a chance to become acquainted with the artists who have just performed.

Included in the \$3.00 membership fee is admission to rehearsals of the Edmonton Symphony Society the morning of performances, where one can observe the establishment of tempo, color, and mood. A subscription to the Jeunesses Musicales Journal and a 10 per cent discount at certain record stores are also part of the members privileges.

In its attempt to provide young

people with an opportunity to enjoy and learn about music, Jeunesses Musicales introduced such now-famous musicians as Marek Jablonski and Maureen Forester. The concerts scheduled for this year include Andrew Dawes on Oct. 30, Pianist William Stevenson on Dec. 5, the Paul Kuentz Chamber Orchestra of Paris on Jan. 23, and the Ebert Trio from Vienna on March 6.

New Players Executive

On Thursday, Oct. 11, the Studio Theatre players held their annual meeting in Studio Theatre, Education Building.

Plans for the coming season were discussed. The season will include experimental workshop, lectures, and readings of new Canadian plays.

Permanent members, who comprise the executive of Studio Theatres Players, were announced. They are Peter Kirchmeir, Sharon Sickoff, Lee Royce, Gordon Zard, Ken Smith, and Don Wells. Faculty co-ordinator for this season will be Prof. F. F. Bueckert.

All student participation in Studio Theatre productions is confined to members of the Players. Any University of Alberta student seriously interested in drama is eligible for membership.

It was decided to hold membership open until November 1. Students wishing to join should leave their names at either the Studio Theatre box office in the main lobby of the Education Building or at the Drama Division office in the second floor lounge, Education Building. R.S.

Art Lectures Cover Designing

The fundamentals of good design will be examined by a series of distinguished speakers in four lectures planned by the Edmonton Art Gallery.

Saturday, Oct. 27 at 8:00 p.m., Mrs. Marion Nicoll, who teaches batik, fabric printing, silk screen, and art metal at the Calgary Institute of Technology, will discuss the elements of good design.

Arthur Erickson, the Vancouver-born architect who was awarded the Massey Medal for Architecture, will be featured Friday, Nov. 9.

Saturday, Nov. 24, John Reeve from Minnesota will discuss various design problems as they apply to pottery. The series will conclude with Miss Sheila Stiven, a weaver trained in Scotland.

Special student rates are available.



14th EXCITING SEASON

Studio Theatre

opens with

JUNO and the PAYCOCK

by Sean O'Casey

Oct. 18, 19, 20, 26, 27

Student Preview Oct. 17—50c

U. of A. STUDENTS ONLY

TWOFOR TICKETS

good Friday only. TWO reserved one dollar tickets FOR ONE dollar.

Regular prices \$1.00-\$1.50

Phone GE 3-3265, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Box Office Main Lobby Ed. Bldg.

ODEON THEATRES

VARSCONA—2nd Week—"TWICE AROUND THE DAFFODILS"

ODEON—"NO MAN IS AN ISLAND" and "INFORMATION RECEIVED"

RIALTO - SKY-VUE—"CARRY ON CRUISING"

ROXY—2nd Week—"THE INTERNS"

AVENUE—"ROMANOFF AND JULIET" and Disney's "3rd MAN MOUNTAIN"