Local

'La Traviata' receives enthusiastic welcome

Verdi's opera comes to life in Monday's OPAS presentation

By MARY ANN HINNANT
Battalion Reporter

It was an evening for pearls and furs, for men in their black suits. The crowd was donned in their best to welcome the National Opera Touring Company and their performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata" in Rudder Auditorium Monday night.

As the strings of the orchestra sang the introduction to the opera, the curtain rose for the performance of the first act displaying brilliant costumes and artistic stage settings which were consistent throughout the performance.

Candace Goetz, who was to play the part of Violetta, was unable to perform and was replaced by her understudy, Elizabeth Pruitt, who gave a performance no less than outstanding. This was evident in her solo in the first act of the opera where Violetta is torn between her devotion to her new love Alfredo, and her way of life as a courtesan. From the first to the final act, Pruitt's voice remained strong and clear.

Alfredo Germont was played by William

Livingston. Although small in stature, Livingston's dynamic tenor voice filled the auditorium.

As director of the opera, Frank Corsaro's ability to join the performers actions with songs was evident in the first and third acts when the entire cast was on the stage. He incorporated song and movement to create an outstanding drama-opera performance.

The opera is truly a tragic love story. In the second act and in the midst of the happiness that Violetta and Alfredo are sharing, Alfredo's father Giorgio Germont, played by Alfred Anderson, comes to call on Violetta to convince her to leave Alfredo because she has brought a bad name to the family and has ruined his daughter's marriage possibilities. Broken hearted, Violetta agrees with him and decides to leave Alfredo. Pruitt created empathy through the audience as her singing was accompanied with strong show of emotion.

As Giorgio Germont, Anderson was equally as dynamic as Livingston. A much larger man,

Anderson's deep voice had no trouble spreading through the auditorium.

Violetta takes another lover so that Alfredo will forget her but this only causes him to become jealous. In the third act of the opera, Alfredo confronts Violetta's new lover and in turn, spurns Violetta. Violetta's new lover challenges Alfredo to a duel adding to the excitement of the performance.

Before the curtain rose for the final act of the opera, the orchestra conducted by Victor DeRenzi set the serious mood with lower strings and horns for the last scene.

Pruitt's emotional singing was even stronger in the final act. Violetta's already frail health became only worse with Alfredo's rejection. She has given up almost all hope when Alfredo returns to her. They share a few moments of happiness but Alfredo is too late and Violetta dies in his arms.

When the curtain fell for the last time, the audience said goodbye to the performers with loud applause as Pruitt, Livingston and Anderson received a standing ovation.

Staff photo by Jeff Kerber

Elizabeth Pruitt and William Livingston, as Violetta and Alfredo, fall in love in the first act of Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata." The opera was performed Monday night in Rudder Auditorium by the National Opera Touring Company of New York.

Council thinking Xmas festivities

By JANE G. BRUST
Battalion Staff

Representatives of Texas A&M University will celebrate Christmas in Elizabethan fashion this year — and other Aggies might do the same next year.

MSC Council members voted Monday night to allocate $971 for nine persons to attend madrigal dinners in December. Members agreed to fund the trip with the intent to begin a madrigal dinners program for the Texas A&M community next year.

The 16th century madrigal dinners celebrate the Christmas season with colorful costumes, elegant food and music for several nights.

Other college campuses celebrate in this manner and sell tickets for each dinner to the public.

Keith Bland, chairman of the madrigal dinners will attend celebrations at Oklahoma State University, Northeastern Oklahoma State University and Stephen F. Austin State University. Jim Reynolds, MSC director, and representatives from food services and the theatre arts and vocal music departments will also attend to get ideas for a program on this campus.

A formal report of the trip will come before council members who will then give their approval to finance the project in December 1981.

"This would be a really unique way of bringing in the Christmas season," Bland said. "It's a great combination of culture and history."

Students to bid on found items

By JANE G. BRUST
Battalion Staff

With a large assortment of books, clothes and jewelry spread across the MSC main lounge, the bargains will be better than any department store can offer.

In fact, prices on the displayed items will be determined by the "shoppers" when they bid at the MSC Lost and Found Committee's auction tomorrow between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items will be on display one hour before the auction.

Committee members will accept cash only but will hold an item if someone must cash a check.

The merchandise consists of items found on campus and turned into the MSC Lost and Found desk. Committee Chairman Merrie SoRelle said her committee has held these items for at least six months.

Among the items to be auctioned are umbrellas, basketballs, backpacks, clothes and books.

"We have over 300 books — textbooks and pleasure reading," SoRelle said.

She said all items must be checked and numbered for the auction and she and another committee member spent more than four hours going over books alone.

The more valuable items include cameras and calculators, SoRelle said.

"We have some really good calculators, some that are working and some that just need to be recharged," she said.