



Simon Sargon lectures on the opera 'Rigoletto' in Rudder Theater Wednesday night.

Rigoletto: a Verdi good opera

by Tim Foadre
Battalion Staff
Opera stereotypes suffered a blow Wednesday night under the command of Dallas composer, conductor and lecturer Simon Sargon.

The opera singers who sang selections from "Rigoletto" were not fat, the music was not archaic, the songs were in English and the story was anything but dull.

Sargon held an "operalogue"

— a sort of travelogue through the plot, music and dramatic significance of an opera — in Rudder Theater to prepare the audience for the full performance of Verdi's opera "Rigoletto." The opera will be performed in English by the Texas Opera Theater Jan. 28 in Rudder Auditorium.

Four singers from the Texas Opera Theater, accompanied by Sargon on the piano, sang pieces from "Rigoletto" that reflected

certain moods or action Sargon wished to highlight.

Sargon told the tragic story of the deformed jester Rigoletto as he described the author's intention to create a specific atmosphere or feeling through the musical score.

As if to prove his point, he called upon baritone Robert McFarland as Rigoletto and soprano Jann Jaffe as Gilda, Rigoletto's daughter. The couple sang a duet in which Rigoletto

swears revenge on the smooth-talking Duke who has seduced his daughter Gilda, while the love-stricken daughter begs her father to forgive the Duke.

Sargon played melancholy piano chords to demonstrate Verdi's representation of the dark, menacing doom that surrounds Rigoletto's curse and his daughter's ill fate.

The story gets more compli-

cated when the Duke (Gran Wilson) seduces the sister (Lynn Beckstrom) of the assassin who was hired by Rigoletto to kill the Duke. Meanwhile, Gilda listens to his flirtations and discovers the Duke is untrue.

The opera ends in a climax of music, emotion, singing and death. What happens is ... well, all that can be found out on Jan. 28 when "Rigoletto" comes to Rudder Auditorium.

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Police searches OK'd on appeal

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Court of Criminal Appeals ruled 6-3 Wednesday that Texas police officers who arrest a motorist for a minor traffic violation have the right to make a thorough search of the driver, including a search of a purse or wallet.

The decision came in the court's refusal to reconsider its earlier ruling upholding the conviction of Donald Snyder of Houston for possession of methamphetamine. Snyder was stopped because his vehicle did not have brake lights.

The officer who stopped this car then discovered Snyder did not have a valid driver's license, and that the vehicle inspection had expired.

He placed Snyder under arrest, then searched his wallet, discovering a small packet of methamphetamine. Snyder contended in his

appeal the search was illegal, but the court majority ruled Wednesday "a search incident to a lawful arrest requires no warrant if it is restricted to a search of the person or of objects immediately associated with the person of the arrestee."

Judge Marvin Teague, in a dissenting opinion, said the court's ruling Wednesday sanctions a full custodial search of a person arrested for the most petty of traffic offenses.

He said if officers seize items of personal property, such as a wallet, they should not be allowed to examine its contents without a warrant.

Judge Sam Houston Clinton, in another dissenting opinion, said the Texas Constitution mandates that citizens should be secure in their possessions from all unreasonable seizures or searches.

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