

'Rigoletto' charms novice, expert opera fans

By Tim Foarde
Battalion Staff
Even to the untrained ear, the Texas Opera Theater's performance of "Rigoletto" was an

enjoyable introduction to opera. More than 2,000 people watched a cast of energetic singers perform Verdi's masterpiece opera in English Thursday

in Rudder Auditorium.

Rigoletto is the story of a mocking jester whose only soft spot is his love for his daughter. When his master, the Duke, seduces his daughter, Rigoletto's pursuit of revenge leads him to hire an assassin to kill the Duke.

The plan ultimately backfires though, and Rigoletto's daughter is killed by the assassin.

The powerful voice of baritone Robert McFarland carried the excitement throughout the performance. McFarland, a respectable actor as well as singer, portrayed a complex character — a man who all at once is the bitter mocker, the loving father and the vengeful jester smitten by a curse.

The hedonistic Duke (played by tenor Peter Puzzo) delights in charming and seducing the women of his court and makes a fitting subject for Rigoletto's revenge.

Puzzo highlighted his entrance with a song asking why he should choose one woman when tomorrow another will take her place. Ironically, his last song in the opera affirms that "women are fickle."

The translation of "Rigoletto," originally composed in Ita-



The jester Rigoletto, played by Robert McFarland, third from left, confronts other characters in Thursday night's

performance of Rigoletto. The opera was sponsored by MSC OPAS Committee.

lian in 1851, helped the audience understand and become involved in the plot. Although the purist may prefer opera in its original language, hearing "Rigoletto" in English allows a less experienced opera fan to

enjoy the story as well as the music.

It wasn't a usual night of entertainment for Texas A&M students. But then, it wasn't a typical Aggie audience.


Residents of the community

far outnumbered students. Consequently the whoops and hisses that frequently interrupt performances at Texas A&M — whether appropriate or not — were refreshingly missing.

As far as Rigoletto goes, the

Texas Opera Theater has demonstrated that the drama of music and singing of an

can be enjoyed by both novice and expert opera enthusiast.



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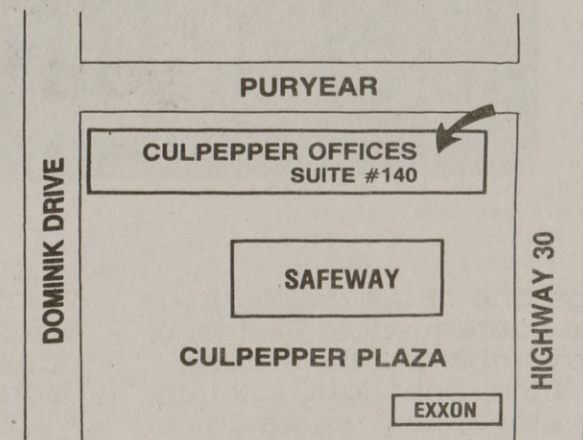
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Electrical engineering society wins certificate

The Gamma Mu chapter of the Electrical Engineering Honor Society has been awarded a national certificate of merit — one of only four awarded in the nation — for the society's activities during the 1980-81 school year.

The society's primary purpose is to recognize outstanding

achievement by electrical engineering students, Tony Rauschuber, society president, said. Members also are involved in tutoring, public relations and preparing a resume book for the seniors.

Rauschuber said the Gamma Mu chapter has approximately 70 active members. A student

must have an overall GPA of 3.0 to become a member. Seniors must be in the top third of the class and juniors must be in the top quarter.

Dr. Norman C. Grissom, associate professor of electrical engineering, said most of his tutoring efforts for graduate school are aimed at society members.

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