



Classical appreciation

By LAURI REESE
Staff Writer

Anything that endures over 50 years, whether music, art, dancing, or whatever, anything that continues to sell, continues to be performed, is a classical piece, says Patricia Fleitas, director of the Century Singers, the A&M's Women's Chorus, and Madrigal Dinners.

Classical music does something to people, it does something to their souls, she says.

Margaret McArthur, who teaches music appreciation and music theory, says classical music is special because it has staying power. And it stays because it's good.

Classical music often is considered serious music, as opposed to popular, jazz, swing, rock 'n' roll, gospel and other types of music, Fleitas says.

She says you don't really have to know anything about classical music to enjoy it. Fleitas has several friends who enjoy classical music as background music, she says. They find it soothing, relaxing.

Of course, the more they listen to it, the more they learn

about it, she says. They educate themselves.

McArthur says many students never have been to a live concert of classical music. Once they go, they become hooked on it, she says.

McArthur says all music is classified by stylistic periods, like the Renaissance, the Classical and the Romantic periods.

Each period has what people call classical music in it, not just the Classical period, she says.

Dr. Gilbert Plass, an A&M physics professor, composes, produces, engineers and narrates a classical music radio program, which airs three times a week: at 5 p.m. on Sundays, at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 9 p.m. on Thursdays, on KAMU-FM, 90.9 on the FM dial.

In the hour-long programs, Plass plays compositions from his own private collection and tells interesting stories about the composers.

Plass says he has been producing the program for over six years because he loves classical music and wants to bring it to this area.

Classical music grows on

you, he says. Each time you listen to it, you hear more and more new things.

Plass says that for cities of College Station and Bryan's size, the awareness and availability of classical music is really good, at least it's a lot better than it used to be.

Plass says that when he and his wife moved to the area 17 years ago, nothing was available in classical music. The Opera and Performing Arts Society has helped an enormous amount, he says.

Barbara Ramage, director of operations for OPAS, says there still is a big need for fine arts awareness and appreciation in the Bryan-College Station area and at A&M.

Many students, especially from big cities like Houston and Dallas, are accustomed to fine arts being available and it's sometimes a let-down when they come to College Station, she says.

OPAS is an organization designed to bring international performers to the community and to promote the arts, Ramage says.

Dr. G's thrives on live music

By SALLY SCHWIERZKE
Reporter

From the outside, Dr. G's looks like any other house along College Main, complete with front porch swings. It's not until you get inside that the resemblance stops. The interior is packed with tables, the bar is against one wall, the bandstand against another, and the dance floor is squeezed in between.

Dr. G's is Bryan-College Station's latest answer to live music. They feature local, regional and national acts. Their music ranges from punk to reggae to new wave to blues to folk music. A little something for everybody, says Willie Bennett, manager and booking agent for the club.

"I like variety, and we want to satisfy all the needs for live music," Bennett says. Bennett, formerly the buyer and manager for a San Marcus feed store, has been promoting live music for 10 years.

Bennett saw the potential for a club offering live music and began sending out feelers. He was approached by Dr. George Graham who also was interested in bringing live music to College Station. The two men got together, found the present

location and decided to make a go of it. Dr. Graham, a former mathematics professor at Texas A&M, is the owner of the club, hence the name Dr. G's.

"We are not into making a killing at the door," Bennett says. "The bottom line is live music." The cover charge ranges from \$3 to \$4, but with the bands receiving an average of \$2000, the club is just covering expenses.

Despite their small size, Dr. G's is able to attract national acts as a result of their location.

"We are right in between Austin and Houston, and it is a good chance for the bands to make some money on their way to their next show," Bennett says.

Dr. G's can now hold about 150 people, but they are planning to expand not only the building, but also their services. In the next two weeks, they will begin serving lunch. The menu will include plate lunches, quiche, chicken fried steak and other home cooked meals.

"We need the lunch business to support our live music habit," Bennett says. "We also need to be open more than just

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