

Musicians enliven A&M audience

University Chamber Series presents evening of classical works

By Keith Spera

Reviewer

The music of several esteemed German and French composers filled Rudder Theatre Monday night during the semester's first installment of the University Chamber Series, proving to this rock 'n' roller that electricity is not required for good music.

Texas A&M faculty members George C. Adams and Werner Rose were joined by Julia C. Combs of the University of Wyoming in presenting a pleasant evening of old and new compositions for about 250 people.

The evening began with a fine reading of Georg Teleman's "Con-

certo in A Major for Oboe d'amore." Comb played the oboe d'amore while Rose accompanied her on piano. An oboe d'amore is a cross between an English horn and an oboe. It is meant to have a sweet sound, which Comb certainly gave to it. Between the third and fourth movements of the piece, the tone was skillfully moved from that of a tragedy to a more jolly, upbeat sound, with the piano and oboe d'amour notes skipping along together and then intertwining and dancing around one another.

George Adams was able to showcase his ample talents on the bassoon with his rendition of Bach's "Suite No. 3 in C Major for Solo Cello." Although the piece was written to be performed on the strings of a cello, Adams was able to capture the in-

tended feeling of the piece on his bassoon. He even managed to recreate with wind the slight resonance of the strings that would be present if the piece were performed on a cello.

Next to shine was Adams, who took a turn at a solo with Franz Haydn's "Fantasie in C Major for Piano." Although this particular piece apparently was not made to conjure up any particular image, but was intended to be enjoyed for the sake of music in and of itself, I couldn't help envisioning a long-haired girl of about nine or ten years of age frolicking in a sun-drenched field. She danced along playfully with the music, slowing every now and then to pick a wildflower. When the music slowed down and became a bit deeper, a bit darker for a mo-

ment, I saw her taking a moment to examine the stormclouds in the distance. This may not have been the piece's original intent, but hey, I was having fun.

After the intermission, a number of pieces were performed that were meant to implant a scene in the listener's mind of the listener. The first movement of "Preludes for Piano, Book II" by Claude Debussy is entitled "Mists." The notes produced by Adams on piano did indeed mimic the swirl of mists in the wind. They built, and then receded.

It was in the evening's last number, "Trio for Piano, Oboe and Bassoon" by Francis Poulenc, that I sensed a slight flaw. The piano seemed a bit loud, which drowned out the bassoon at certain points. It was a minor mistake in an evening of major music.

Courts refuse to stop Bundy's execution

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — The highest courts of the state and the nation refused Monday night to block the Tuesday morning execution of Ted Bundy, who during the last three days confessed to 20 murders in Western states.

The 42-year-old law school dropout was described as subdued and emotional as he met with psychiatrist Dorothy Lewis, apparently as part of his lawyers' preparations for an argument that Bundy was mentally incompetent to be executed.

After confessing during the weekend to two Colorado murders, he talked with Colorado investigators again Monday but disclosed no information about three unsolved slayings in the state, officials said.

Bundy also met with James Dobson, host of a California religious radio show, during the afternoon. But it was not clear whether Bundy would allow Dobson to discuss the interview before the execution.

Bundy was scheduled to die in Florida's electric chair at 7 a.m. Tuesday for the 1978 kidnap-murder of 12-year-old Kimberly Leach of Lake City. He also was convicted of killing two sorority sisters in Tallahassee in 1978.

U.S. Supreme Court justices voted 5-4 to reject an emergency request

aimed at keeping Bundy alive until a formal appeal could be filed with the nation's highest court. The justices had four times previously rejected formal appeals from Bundy.

Bundy's lawyers argued that jurors in the Leach case were misled about the importance of their role in determining whether Bundy would receive the death penalty or life in prison for his crime. In Florida, juries in capital cases recommend a punishment, but the presiding judge is free to accept or reject the recommendation.

The justices rejected a related argument by a 6-3 vote, and they voted 7-2 to turn down a request to delay the execution until the high court could hear an appeal claiming that Bundy's death sentence was tainted because his lawyers were not shown all the information considered in the sentencing.

The attorneys also filed an appeal in state court, claiming the jury instructions were improper.

Bundy's discussions with the defense psychiatrist meant he might raise the insanity argument once more.

The governor was ready for him. Gov. Bob Martinez told reporters in Tallahassee that three psychiatrists were ready to examine Bundy if his

competency was questioned by anyone.

It is the fourth time an execution has been set for Bundy.

But this weekend, he began confessing to a string of murders. He has been linked to as many as 36 killings and disappearances of young women in Washington, Colorado, Utah and other Western states.

But Colorado Attorney General Duane Woodard accused him of stringing along investigators to avoid or delay execution.

Martinez said the execution would go forward whether or not Bundy has time to tell all he knows about killings and locations of bodies.

"I think the way in which Ted perhaps is using the confessions to bargain for time with the law enforcement people has been difficult for some folks to deal with," the Rev. David Ernst, pastor of the Tacoma, Wash., church where Bundy's family worships weekly, said in an interview Sunday.

A San Diego man, William Taylor, asked Martinez to put off the execution until Bundy could say if he was involved in the January 1968 disappearance of his sister in Concord, N.H.

Martinez aide Brian Ballard said Monday that even the approxi-

mately 100 requests similar to Taylor's would not make the governor delay the execution.

It's easy to see how people who oppose the death penalty on principle make an exception for Bundy, said Kathleen Taylor of the American Civil Liberties Union in Seattle.

"Anybody in their right mind hates that man. You're going get that kind of emotional response," she said.

Once cocky and confident in the courtroom, Bundy acted Monday like a man who believed his time may be running out, a prison spokesman said.

"He's more emotional and subdued," than under the previous three death warrants, Bob Macmaster, a prison spokesman, said.

Salt Lake County sheriff's Detective Dennis Couch said Sunday that Bundy mentioned his involvement in up to eight Utah killings, two more than authorities had suspected. Earlier Sunday, Bundy confessed to two murders in Idaho, where officials had never linked him to any killings.

Idaho Attorney General Jim Jones said a number of police agencies were asked to come to Boise to talk about Bundy and determine which old cases might be connected with his confession.

Bundy also provided investigators Friday and Saturday with details of eight Washington killings and two in Colorado for which he has long been suspected but never charged, authorities said.

Argentine soldiers retake base after battle with commandos

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Hundreds of soldiers backed by tanks and mortars regained control of most of an infantry base Monday night after 15 hours of gun battles with civilian commandos the government said were leftist guerrillas.

At 9:30 p.m., a handful of commandos were holed up in an officers club that soldiers had attacked with tanks and set on fire.

Moments earlier, a small armory exploded, sending bright flames 100 yards high into the darkness. Sporadic gunfire and an occasional mortar round could be heard from inside the spacious compound.

The battles began when an estimated 30 to 50 commandos used a stolen Coca Cola delivery truck to crash through the main gate of the 3rd infantry regiment in La Tablada on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

At least 20 commandos were killed or wounded, local news agen-

cies reported. Hospital and provincial health officials said four soldiers were killed and 27 soldiers and police wounded, along with one local newspaper reporter.

The casualty toll was much higher than in the three military insurrections against the government of President Raul Alfonsin during the past 21 months.

In the military revolts of April 1987 and January and December 1988, soldiers were extremely reluctant to fire on fellow soldiers.

The commandos did not identify themselves or state their motives. But a woman who called the independent news agency Diarios y Noticias said she was part of the commando group and said it acted to prevent a military coup.

"It was to defend democracy, and now they're massacring us," said the woman, who refused to identify herself or the commando group.

"Please, do something."

Military officials and government spokesmen, including Alfonsin's press secretary, Jose Ignacio Lopez, said the commandos were leftist guerrillas and not soldiers or members of a right-wing group.

No similar incidents were reported at other bases throughout this South American country of 31 million.

The officials offered little evidence to support their contention that the commandos were leftists, but party leaders and unions from across the political spectrum who denounced the incident did not challenge the government's claim.

Hundreds of area residents who gathered outside the base shouted support for the troops. "Kill them!" people shouted as troops led away commandos captured after they fled burning, smoking buildings.

Group loses fight against papal visit stamp

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group supporting the separation of church and state lost a Supreme Court challenge Monday to a cancellation stamp that commemorated a 1987 visit to the United States by Pope John Paul II.

The court, without comment, refused to revive a lawsuit by the Texas-based Society of Separationists against the U.S. Postal Service.

The group's leader, Ralph B. Shirley of Austin, said the stamp improperly used taxpayer money to promote religion.

At the request of a customer, post offices in the nine cities the pope visited in 1987 would use a special rubber stamp bearing the emblem of the

Vatican in Rome to cancel postcards and first-class letters.

The cancellation stamps were used only during the pope's visit.

Shirley said, "The purpose of the Postal Service in commemorating the visit of the pope is clearly religious. The pope's visit is in no way a secular event."

A federal judge threw out the suit, and the dismissal was upheld last July by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The appeals court said the case is moot — no longer posing a live con-

troversy — since the stamps were discontinued.

Generally, courts do not consider cases without live issues.

Since the case is moot, a court would take it up only if the Society of Separationists can show that the Postal Service could repeat the action in a way that would evade review by the courts, the appeals court said.

It said the group has "not established a demonstrated probability or a reasonable expectation that the current pope or his successor will visit the United States and that the Postal Service will commemorate the event with special cancellations."

Shirley said the appeals court ignored the reality of what happened during previous papal visits to the United States.

Similar cancellation stamps were used to honor Pope John Paul II in 1979, 1981 and twice in 1984, Shirley said.

The postal service limits the time that the stamps can be challenged in court by waiting until he is about to arrive before announcing the stamps, Shirley said.

"This is a sly trick of the postal service to attempt to block review of its unlawful acts" by the courts, added the group's appeal that was acted on Monday.

The case is Shirley vs. Schraer, 88-712.

Jobless rate in Texas hits 12-month low

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas jobless rate hit its lowest point since 1984 last month, said Mary Scott Nabers, commissioner at the Texas Employment Commission.

"We have seen a continuous decline in recent months and our latest statistics place the state rate at 6.2 percent in mid-December," Nabers said in a statement released Monday. "That's the lowest rate Texans have seen since December of 1984."

The September rate was 7.1 percent; October, 6.8 percent; and November, 6.6 percent. The last time the rate was below 6.2 percent was in December 1984, when it was 5.6 percent, according to a statement from the TEC.

The total number of jobless Texans dropped by just more than 33,000 in December to 518,900, the commission said, and unemployment has been gradually declining throughout most of 1988.

Only three metropolitan statistical areas had rates in December above 10 percent — McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Laredo and Brownsville-Harlingen. Rates in these border areas tend to be higher than average, the commission said, and unemployment normally increases in the winter months due to migrant workers returning to their homes there.

Rates of unemployment in the urban areas of Texas as announced by the Texas Employment Commission for December included:

- Abilene 5.4
- Amarillo 5.2
- Austin 5.0
- Beaumont-Port Arthur 8.9
- Brazoria 6.5
- Brownsville-Harlingen 10.8
- Bryan-College Station 3.9
- Corpus Christi 7.4
- Dallas 4.8
- El Paso 9.7
- Fort Worth-Arlington 5.2
- Galveston-Texas City 7.0
- Houston 5.4
- Temple-Killeen 7.1
- Laredo 12.6
- Longview-Marshall 7.6
- Lubbock 5.2
- McAllen-Edinburg-Mission 16.4
- Midland 5.4
- Odessa 6.8
- San Angelo 5.4
- San Antonio 6.5
- Sherman-Denison 5.7
- Tyler 6.4
- Victoria 5.3
- Waco 5.8

17-year-old boy goes to court for involvement in theft ring

PHOENIX (AP) — A judge has remanded a 17-year-old member of a polygamist sect to Juvenile Court for trial on charges stemming from his alleged involvement in a stolen-truck ring.

Meanwhile, a hearing to suppress evidence against four other members of the Church of Lamb of God continued Monday in Maricopa County Superior Court, a clerk for Judge Frank T. Galati said.

Still charged with one count each

of conspiracy, control of an illegal enterprise, and 20 counts of theft are: Heber LeBaron, 24; his half-brother Douglas Barlow, 28; Tarsa LeBaron, 22; and Cynthia LeBaron, age not known.

The defendants, relatives of the late Ervil LeBaron, who founded their church, were arrested last July at a Phoenix motel after a patrolman spotted a truck stolen in Texas, police said.

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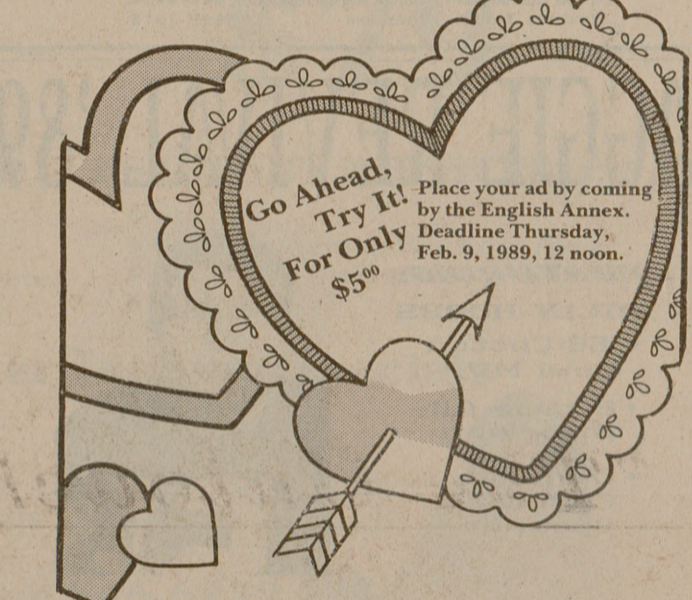
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