

WARD



by Scott McCullar © 1990

Concert Royal elegantly open OPAS season

By CAROL GLENN
Concert Royal, presented by the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS), featured impressive performances of Mozart movements Friday night.

The Concert Royal Chamber Orchestra in joint appearance with The New York Baroque Dance Company, commemorated the 200th anniversary of Wolfgang Mozart Amadeus' death, and celebrated the 300th birthday of Bach, Scarlatti, and Handel.

This ballet was performed in G minor achieving gaiety and happy tones with rich vigor.

Richman, founder of Concert Royal in 1974, is a seasoned conductor directing works from Purcell, Handel, Bach and Rameau. He has also worked extensively with Baroque music-theater productions, and is considered to be at the forefront of the Baroque and Classic revival in the United States.

Accompanying the 21-piece orchestra of original-period instruments were eight dancers in full Mozart-period costume from the New York Baroque Dance Company, directed by Catherine Turocy who founded the company in 1976.

The dancers eloquently combined 90-degree turnouts of the legs with expressive hand and body gestures and a relaxed foot and music to create the Mozart-period ambience.

The costumes, designed by Marie Anne Chiment, were exceptionally well-suited for this event. The pastel-colored and gold costumes fit the Amadeus theme of the concert precisely, giving the audience an alluring vision of the Mozart period (and also managed to make up for the lack of stage props that would have made the overall production more interesting).

The performance began with the movements "Molto allegro," "Andante," "Menuetto-Allegretto" and "Allegro assai," all executed flawlessly and with great precision.

After the intermission, all eight dancers performed the ballet "Chaconne-Finale (Idomeneo)." This ballet deals with a plot in which everything that can possibly go wrong does, but it has a happy ending.

The ballet was both beautiful and humorous. Serious scenes of the ballet were broken up with hilarity executed magnificently by the dancers through face and body movements.

It was obvious that both the Concert Royal and The New York Baroque Dance Company were professionals. The performers made their complex artistic talent look easy. The performance was flawless, intriguing and relaxing.

To listen to Mozart music and watch the flowing dancers, was truly an elegant and unique way to spend a Friday evening.

The next production of OPAS will be the "Glasnost Ballet" performed on October 12th and 13th. For ticket information call the MSC Box Office at 845-1234.

Spade Phillips, P.I.



by Matt Kowalski

Tubularman



by Boomer Cardinale

Reed

Continued from page 4

the strings at the base of the guitar. Two stand-out songs were "7/4," which was written in 7/4 time, and "Digitalia," in which he didn't move his left-hand ring finger on the guitar throughout the whole song, as he played the bass and lead parts of the song.

In two other songs, one called "Drums," he played the wooden parts of his guitar like a drum, while playing melody and bass line on the strings.

His goal over the next few years, he said, "is to get a wider audience and get some kind of wider airplay."

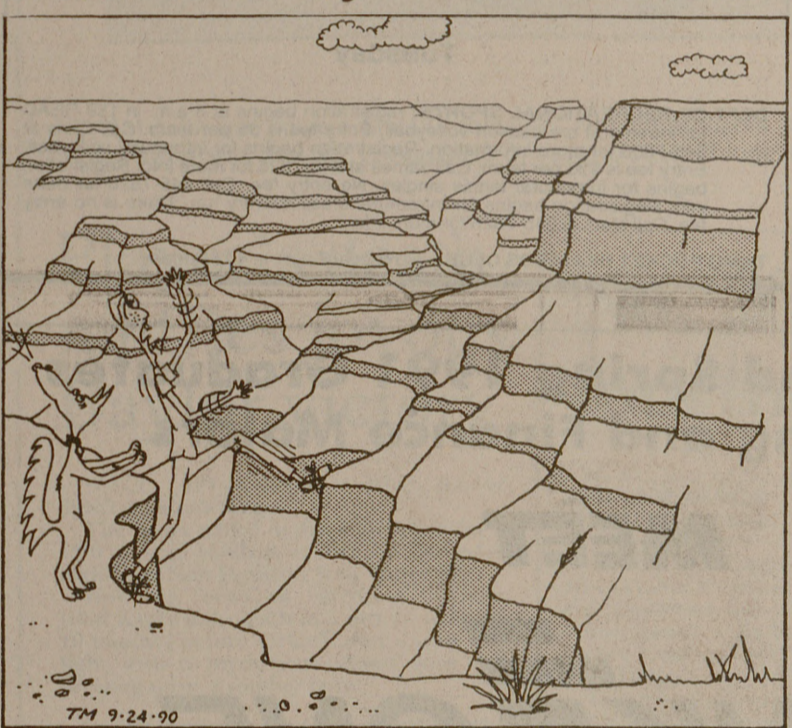
He agreed that the popularity of modern guitarists such as Eric Johnson, Joe Satriani and Stanley Jordan has helped increase his audience.

"All that stuff helps," he said. "Other guitar players build an audience and they hear about me and check me out."

Reed may never become as popular as other, more mainstream guitarists, but his fans won't mind. He's an artist who deserves more recognition for his fast and incredible playing ability, but is probably better off without the spoils of fame.

If his music were to be described in one word (another impossible task) then "different" would be probably be it.

Nerd House by Tom A. Madison



HERBERT GETS A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE GRAND CANYON.

Porch

Continued from page 4

restaurant near campus, became the Texas Star Tavern. "We became the Texas Star Tavern without alcohol, then switched to the Front Porch Cafe without food." He adds quickly, "Now we're the Front Porch Cafe with food."

But it's not the history or even the food that makes the Front Porch the best place for live music. Stearns' own feelings about the Texas music scene and his knowledge of the College Station crowd do that.

"The scene in Texas is as good as it is anywhere else, and in a lot of ways, it's better," Stearns says.

"A lot of people lament the fact that there's so much good music overlooked in Texas because there aren't any big record labels in Texas," Stearns explains. "But that's part of the reason why the music scene in Texas is so great."

"Go to Nashville or some place like that, and everybody has it in their mind that they have to be seen by a record label—and not in the back of their mind, but the front of their mind," Stearns says.

Bands in Texas aren't worried about getting a record deal all the time, Stearns thinks, "and that makes the live music scene in Texas really dynamic."

Stearns says he is committed to bringing bands from around the state into College Station, but he is also concerned about local groups.

"The local bands in this town need a venue, and right now, we play them on Wednesday night, but that's still not enough."

"I'm not going to try to change my format," he says, "but I do hope that eventually there is a place for local bands to play more."

Getting the Front Porch off the ground and keeping it running smoothly hasn't been easy for Stearns. "I've had to adopt a real hard-line policy with underage drinkers," he says. "If I catch somebody, I call the police and they give a heavy fine. That's the only way I can keep underage people in here, but I'm willing to do that because I hate to keep anybody from enjoying the music."

The Front Porch has also faced some other stumbling blocks. "First, we fought a nine-month legal battle with the TABC. The owner of our building was married to someone who worked at Messina Hof winery, and they said that was a conflict of interest, although we never sold wine."

"Then one of the local business owners decided he didn't want live music here any more, so he filed

complaints about our parking," Stearns says. "We showed how our parking met all city standards, but for some reason the TABC kept bringing up his complaint."

Stearns says they tried to fix some of the parking problem by removing an old abandoned building that was a hazard. "(The city) then came and said we didn't have the right permit and our lot didn't meet zoning requirements," he explains.

Stearns says he then closed off the lot so that no one could park there, and the city still hassled the business. "Finally, I got a Bryan city council member to take up my case and I haven't heard any more about it."

"I had a lot of ideas about expanding, but with zoning, all that is impossible," he says.

While not physically expanding the Front Porch, Stearns has started expanding its services. "We have started cooking barbecue, and we hope we can start to get a daytime crowd."

Stearns' commitment to the music scene in College Station has made the Front Porch the best place to catch live music in town. By pursuing ventures with other students and student organizations, Stearns has made the Front Porch shows all the more enjoyable. And now they have great food, too.

War

Continued from page 5

from a soldier's diary."

"In essence we endowed each photograph with life trying to make history come alive. We did not want stale professors on camera to recount the history of the war," Burns said in a press release.

The finished product is anything but stale. Though quiet, the series exudes a way of life created by the war. It is a life of waiting - waiting for the bloodshed to end.

Students do not have time to wait. And this is unfortunate for both the documentary and students.

Here is the opportunity to hear accounts from people who lived through the trauma through actors who bring the words to life, quite unlike textbook accounts. Here is the opportunity to see actual photographs taken as the war progressed and desolation pierced the country.

KAMU will continue broadcasting The Civil War tonight through Thursday. Tonight's episodes, "A Very Bloody Affair" and "Forever Free," chronicle 1862 and the events leading up to Abraham Lincoln's decision to emancipate the country's slaves.

Students need to set their VCRs for channel 15. They do not need to let classes and tests keep them from learning all they can from The Civil War.

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