



Festifall '90

Brazos Valley celebrates arts

By JOHN RIGHTER

The Arts Council of Brazos Valley is sponsoring a two-day performance and visual arts festival in downtown Bryan this Saturday and Sunday.

Titled "Festifall '90," the first art extravaganza is a celebration of the art council's 20th anniversary and of the growth and diversity in the area's arts and entertainment.

Included in this growth is the council's 20-group membership, which includes the Aggie Players, Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, Brazos Valley Museum, StageCenter and MSC Opera and Performing Arts Center.

FestiFall '90 will cover over three blocks in downtown Bryan: Main, Bryan and 26th, and the front lawn of the Carnegie Library.

Two stages, the Plaza Stage at the 26th and Main and the Garden Stage on the Carnegie Library lawn, will feature performances that range from live jazz, rock and choral to drama, dancing and juggling. Over 700 artists are scheduled to perform during the 13 hours of scheduled entertainment.

On Bryan Avenue a demonstration area will include bobbin and lacemaking, weaving, woodchip carving, watercolor and pottery. FestiFall also has a special demonstration and activity section for children that involves printmaking, clay sculpting, textile collage making and paper crown decorating.

Visual artists booths will be stationed on Main Street where art will be displayed and sold. Also, to promote Bryan's historical richness, the Citizens for Historic Preservation will sponsor a bus tour of historic sites in the downtown area, beginning at 10:30 at the Bryan library on Saturday morning.

FestiFall '90 is scheduled, rain or shine, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Food, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available.

Featured performers of the two-day festival include:

- **Voices of Praise** — the Texas A&M gospel group that has performed locally since 1980.
- **Texas A&M Jazz Ensemble** — 25-member group conducted by Jim McDaniel, that performs all kinds of jazz from big band to fusion.
- **Jack Houston** — local singer who is classified as country, but extends into pop and adult contemporary. He has released, *Jack Houston: Texas' Newborn*, which yielded the single, "Calico Christmas."
- **Aggie Players** — Texas A&M's theater group, under the direction of Dr. Roger Schultz, will perform Saturday morning.
- **Don Pope and Friends** — local professional saxophonist and Christian jazz artist, Don Pope, has been performing for more than 15 years, including shows with the Temptations, Kool and the Ghetto Donna Summer and Smokey Robinson. He has released the album, *Don Pope and Friends*.
- **StageCenter** — StageCenter's Valley Troupe will perform song and dance selections directed by Perry Norris and choreographed by Wanda Daisa. Over its 25 years, StageCenter has become a staple of the Brazos Valley arts community.
- **DANZA** — dance-art group that combines modern dance and ballet with the American form of dance.
- **Brazos Valley Symphonietta** — selected members of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra will perform two pieces, "The Capriol Suite" by Peter Warlock and "Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus" by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Franz Krager will conduct the symphonietta.
- **Karen Chaviz** — primarily a jazz singer who has opened for jazz performers Kirk Whalum and Larry Carlton. She has released an album, *Portrait*.
- **Dru Wilson** — Wilson of popular local group Kerouacs, will perform original acoustic rock, ranging from ballads to straight rock.
- **Road Kings** — local rockabilly band that has been performing around B-C since last spring.

Ballet company visits, performs in glasnost spirit

By KRISTI LORSON

The fall of the iron curtain has given way to the rise of Rudder Auditorium's curtain this weekend at The First International Glasnost Ballet.

The performance will showcase the talents of 10 international gold and silver medalist dancers from four countries. The Soviet Union, China, Czechoslovakia and Hungary will be represented by a potpourri of works.

Highlights include a Russian couple's portrayal of the impassioned feelings of first love in the classic "Romeo and Juliet," a Czechoslovakian's performance in "The Birds" which was specifically choreographed for her flexible body and the Chinese presentation of Pas de Deux from Petipa's "Don Quixote."

MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society Chairman Derek Moore, who has helped organized the ballet, says other special events are also planned for the visiting ballet company and for students who want to take part in "glasnost."

Throughout the month, an exhibit of over 100 artistic pictures by Russian photojournalist Misha Medvedev will be on display at the Brazos Stock Exchange on Main Street in Bryan, he said.

Students will also have an opportunity to see a part of the Soviet Union and other countries firsthand when the dancers visit selected philosophy, sociology, history, music and Russian classes with their translators today and Friday, he said. The dancers will also teach advanced ballet classes to selected Brazos County students during those days.

Bryan Mayor Marvin Tate will present the dancers with the keys to the city to conclude their stay here.

"We're very excited that they're coming to A&M," Moore said. "There's been a real openness and friendliness during all the planning."

"Whenever they left the country before, they had to have representatives of the Communist party accompany them. There's a new freedom now that will allow the Soviet Union to show what they have to offer in performing arts."

The dancers will "show what they have to offer" during two performances, Friday and Saturday nights at 8. Tickets are available in the MSC Box Office and prices range from \$10 to \$30.

For more information about tickets or Glasnost Week events, contact the MSC Box Office at 845-1234 or the Cindy Biek at 845-1661.

Louis Lucko (right) holds Stefani Baker's hand as she performs a ballet move in front of the Chemistry Building fountain.

Photo by Mike Mulvey

