

Tickets & Times

The curtain hasn't closed on those who want to see the ballet, yet.

Ballet aficionados still can get tickets for performances by the Bolshoi Ballet-Grigorovich Company which debuts Friday night in Texas A&M's Rudder Auditorium.

Tickets for the company's nine performances have been bought up from around the country, and two performances are already sold out. Less than 7,000 of more than 22,000 total tickets remain, said MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society members.

All seats for the Sunday's 2 p.m. matinee and Nov. 30's 8 p.m. performance have been sold, and less than 400 total tickets remain for both Dec. 1 performances, said MSC Box Office personnel.

Tickets can be purchased at the MSC Box Office or by calling (409) 845-1234 and at all Ticketron outlets or by calling 1-800-275-1000.

Tickets for valet shuttle bus service from Post Oak Mall in College Station and Manor East Mall in Bryan are also available for \$2 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or at either mall prior to each performance.

The shuttle service begins two hours before each performance and runs on 15 to 20 minute intervals.

The Bolshoi Ballet-Grigorovich Company offers 60 young dancers in nine performances beginning Friday night. All between the ages of 18 and 25, these dancers have been trained at the famed Bolshoi Academy and other leading Soviet dance schools.

The company will present the ballet, "The Nutcracker," and "The Best of The Bolshoi," a mixed repertoire that includes Act II of the ballet "Swan Lake."

The performances are scheduled as follows:

"The Nutcracker"

- Friday at 8 p.m.
- Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Sunday at 8 p.m.
- Nov. 30 at 8 p.m.
- Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

"The Best of The Bolshoi"

- Nov. 27 at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 28 at 7 p.m.

The prices of the remaining tickets on sale are:

• For this weekend's 8 p.m. performances — \$30 for a balcony seat, \$40 for the last 13 rows in the orchestra level and \$50 for the first 13 rows on the orchestra level, the mezzanine and the boxes.

• For all other performances — \$15, \$25 and \$35 for the same seats.

For more information on ticket availability, call the MSC Box Office at 845-1234.

The Soviet Union's brightest young dancers may be debuting the Bolshoi Ballet-Grigorovich Company at Texas A&M this week, but the Brazos Valley's brightest musicians will provide the orchestral background.

Forty-eight musicians from the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra will perform the music to "The Nutcracker" for three of the new ballet company's seven performances during this weekend's premiere. Bolshoi conductor Alexander Lavrenyuk will direct the local musicians in all three live-orchestra shows. The other shows will have taped music.

Seven of the 48 musicians in the orchestra are from Texas A&M — five faculty/staff members, one graduate student and one undergraduate student.

They are Glenn Bearden, a research assistant in biochemistry and biophysics and principal second violinist, and Penny Sent, development director for KAMU-TV and -FM and first chair flutist.

Also performing will be Mark Holtzaple, assistant professor of chemical engineering, and Alan Houtchens, assistant professor of philosophy and humanities, both playing the French horn. Robert Kenefick, professor in physics, Eric Schansberg, a graduate student in economics and violinist, and Monica Kim, an undergraduate studying languages, will all be playing the violin.

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra formed in September 1981 and has performed for audiences since then. The BVSO named a new conductor in 1984: Franz Anton Krager. Krager is another member of the A&M faculty, serving as a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy and Humanities' music program.



By ROB NEWBERRY

With all the excitement over the upcoming Bolshoi Ballet performance, it would be easy to forget that the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS) is committed to providing quality exposure to the performing arts throughout the year.

MSC OPAS was formed in the fall of 1972 by representatives from Bryan-College Station and students from Texas A&M, with the intention of making the Rudder Theatre Complex a center for art and cultural presentations.

Funded by ticket revenues and contributions from about 700 beneficiaries, OPAS has earned respect and attention from the surrounding area as the major supporter of the performing arts in the area. To date, OPAS has brought in such successful acts as "Big River," "Cats," and Marcel Marceau.

Already this year, OPAS has four major performances under its belt. Beginning with the Concert Royal in September, then the Glasnost Ballet in October, and "LBJ" and "Into the Woods" this month, OPAS has staged a successful start to its 18th season, titled simply enough, OPAS 18.

"The programs we've had thus far have all done better than we expected them to do," OPAS chairman Derek Moore said. "We've been real happy with the turnout, especially with the number of students."

"The season has had tremendous success, and we've had good reviews for all the shows," Moore added. "There's a lot of interest out there, both from students and Bryan-College Station. I'm glad we're there to fill what's perceived as a cultural void, and that we're seen as a major influence on the performing arts here."

Scheduled for the spring semester are more plays and concerts. OPAS begins the second half of the season with "Winter Solstice," a concert featuring Windham Hill Records artists such as Liz Story, Philip Aaberg and Nightnoise. Windham Hill came to the forefront of what critics have labeled "new classical music" in the '80s, and the show promises some of the best of this interesting blend of classical and new age jazz.

"The 'Winter Solstice' show is very student oriented," Moore said. "New age music is our age music, so we're expecting lots of students."

The Japanese percussion company Kodo, the Neil Simon comedy "Rumors," and a performance of Paris' famed *Orchestra de Paris* are OPAS' February features.

The musical high school reunion "Oil City Symphony" and Tony Award-winner "Camelot" will finish up OPAS 18. "We've still got some top-notch productions on the way. The Kodo and *Orchestra de Paris* are both great, according to all the reviews I've seen. And we're going to try to end our season with a big boom with 'Camelot,'" Moore said.

These features, however, do not total OPAS' involvement in the arts this year. Two other programs, OPAS Stark and OPAS, Jr., are keeping students and the community in touch with OPAS' goals.

The J. Wayne Stark Series was created in 1984 to provide exposure to the performing arts at an affordable price. "The programs are a smaller venue," Stark chair Paula Homeier said. "It's good for a classy date, and it's affordable."

The Stark Series presents the Hambro Piano Quartet tonight to conclude

MSC OPAS
'lights up nights



MSC Opera & Performing Arts Society

its Focus on the Performing Arts (FOPA) Week. "They try to present classical music in a comical manner," Homeier said. The show has been called "topless" — all four grand pianos have the tops taken off.

On the lineup next spring for the Stark Series is "Marimolin & Continuum," a marimba, violin, and percussion concert on February 5, and "Composer's Spotlight," where students can perform original works on March 23.

After several years of successful children's features, OPAS created OPAS, Jr. last year. Dedicated to bringing entertainment for the younger members of the family, OPAS, Jr. got off to a great start, and continues to do

well with this year's line-up. "We sold out both performances of 'Cinderella' in September," OPAS, Jr. chair John Billimek said. "And it looks like our performances of 'The Snow White Elephant' are going to do well, too."

For the spring, OPAS, Jr. plans to bring in guitarist-songwriter Tom Chapin, brother of Harry Chapin, for an afternoon of audience participation and sing-a-longs. Also on the list is *Dinosaur Rock*, "an educational musical about dinosaurs," said Billimek.

The continued support of donors make all these programs possible. With such support, the committee invites everyone to "Light up your nights" with OPAS 18.



The Concert Royale with the New York Baroque Dance Company delighted OPAS audiences in September. The performance included music written by Mozart. The dancers performed ballets and operas from the eighteenth century.