

Symphony kicks off OPAS season

BY RHONDA REINHART
Staffwriter

One might think a university without a fine arts program would be lacking in the areas of music, dance and drama, but not if the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society has anything to do with it. MSC OPAS is an organization dedicated to presenting performing arts to Texas A&M and the Brazos Valley. The 1997-98 season, "Invitation to the Future," marks the group's 25th anniversary and 25 years of bringing top-quality artists to Bryan-College Station.

Anji Moore, chair of the OPAS student committee and senior zoology major, said the Brazos Valley needs an organization like OPAS. "Since A&M has no fine arts program, we try to take up the slack in that area," she said. "OPAS fills a need for performing arts in this

area very well." Thurman Schweitzer, OPAS member and

"We like to think of ourselves as the fine arts college of Texas A&M."

Thurman Schweitzer
OPAS member and senior geography major

senior geography major, agrees that Texas A&M has a craving for the fine arts. "We like to think of ourselves as the fine arts college of Texas A&M," he said. Schweitzer said OPAS is the only group in Bryan-College Station that brings national tours to the community.

OPAS opens this year's season on Saturday, Sept. 27 in Rudder Auditorium with a performance by Marvin Hamlisch and the Austin Symphony Pops.

Hamlisch is a pianist, conductor and composer who has written more than 30 motion picture soundtracks and the themes for the "CBS Morning Program" and "Good Morning America." He is also the recipient of three Oscar awards, four Grammys, two Golden Globes, the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony award.

Other upcoming events include a performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Southwest premiere of "Blue Suede Shoes," a ballet set to the music of Elvis Presley. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing the world premiere of A&M resident composer Peter Lieuwen's "Living Waters."

Moore said Bryan-College Station audiences are pretty open to new types of

entertainment. "Performers are always very well-received here," she said. "We have a reputation for creating an atmosphere that is conducive to their work. They can concentrate on what they do best—their art. They don't have to worry about external pressures."

One reason performers at OPAS events are able to work in a pleasant environment is the effort of the student committee.

The committee is made up of 150 members, and its tasks include overseeing operations on performance nights, raising money and suggesting what artists to bring next season, among other things.

"There is nothing like OPAS at any other university," Moore said. "They don't have the student involvement that we do."

Anne Black, executive director for OPAS, said one of the organization's goals is to provide leadership opportunities to students involved in the program.

"I think the success of OPAS primarily due to the relationship between the university and the Bryan-College Station community," she said.

OPAS offers material suitable for the community, including children. OPAS Jr., a sector of OPAS that presents entertaining programs for children.

OPAS Jr. begins its season on October 1 with an updated version of "Little Red Riding Hood."

Black said OPAS Jr. is a way to train future audiences.

"It's a way to get parents to bring their children into the concert halls so they are comfortable with the arts," she said. "The children will experience and understand live performance, and hopefully, it will make them future audiences."

Robison, Ingram set to play pre-Yell Practice party

BY APRIL TOWERY
Entertainment editor

Tonight's Midnight Yell Practice will be a little different than usual. For one thing, it is set to be held on Rodeo Plaza in Fort Worth.

Before Yell Practice, Charlie Robison and Jack Ingram are set to perform at Billy Bob's Texas at 10 p.m.

Robison, an Austin native, said tonight's show will get Aggies in the mood to yell.

"It's pretty up-tempo," Robison said. "A show to drink beer at."

Robison's music is country, but it is Texas country, which he defines as something different from "the norm."

"I think people are sick of the Nashville formula acts," he said. "It's a little bit more real than that. It's not like the country you hear on the radio."

Robison's music is not sad, "tear-in-my-beer" country music. "It's about everyday life, not just breaking up," he said. "It crosses a whole lot of different styles. It doesn't stick to any formula or format."

Robison's musical influences range from Buck Owens to Black Sabbath, and his country/rock debut album, *Bandera*, reflects his diversity as a musician.

His music has been compared to fellow Texas musicians and friends Robert Earl Keen and Ingram. Robison said one thing these Texas musicians do have in common is their love for what they do.

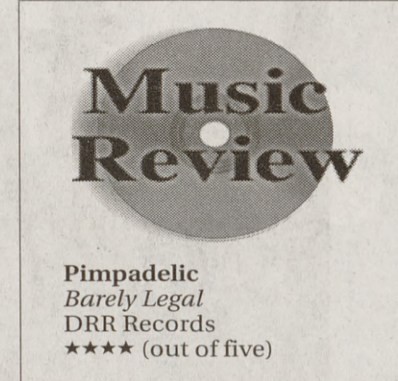
"Chances are we'll never break into the real mainstream," he said. "Some get commercial attention but are not critically valid. I'd rather have critics enjoy my music, well, I'd rather have both, but if I had to choose one..."

Aggie "critics" will be able to see for themselves whether or not they



Charlie Robison enjoy Robison's music, but in the meantime, Robison is happy just playing. "I have always had a really huge love for music," he said. "It's all I could think about."

Dallas band Pimpadelic releases impressive debut



Pimpadelic
Barely Legal
DRR Records
★★★★ (out of five)

BY LEN CALLAWAY
Staffwriter

Dallas band Pimpadelic takes loud, irreverent and perverse rock 'n' roll to a completely new level. Pimpadelic is a band that must be seen and heard for one to get the total experience. These guys are a six-man virtuoso of foulness. The band released its first album, *Barely Legal* last year and

has enjoyed much success since then. They regularly pack clubs like Trees and Club Clearview in Dallas and recently played to a standing room only crowd at Los Angeles' infamous Opium Den. They also have an upcoming show at the notorious L.A. club The Viper Room with Keanu Reeves' band Dog Star.

Pimpadelic blends '70s-sounding funk with all out rock and serious beats to form a unique background sound for the insane lyrical attack of frontmen King E Capone, Dirty K and Easy Jesus. When these qualities are combined with the flexibility displayed by turntable guru DJ MIA, it's quite obvious where Pimpadelic is headed.

Even more powerful than the music itself is Pimpadelic's ability to involve the crowd. A silent and still crowd is something that Pimpadelic simply will not tolerate. The shows are something to see and are definitely unlike anything regularly seen in the Brazos Valley.

Barely Legal is a ten-song romp through the streets of Dallas-Fort Worth raisin' hell and drinking beer with as much irreverence as possible. Pimpadelic skips most of the already overdone gangsta rap. These tunes are only serious about one thing—the party.

Pimpadelic carries on in an atypical rap fashion—its lyrics boast that the band members are definitely the coolest and baddest guys around, but they exhibit a certain playfulness that demands a smile from fans, not a tough guy scowl.

In a recent interview Pimpadelic said that people from all different walks of life like the music, and the band members get a lot of positive feedback, particularly from people who are prejudiced against the band to whom they actually are. Make no mistake—this is definitely rap, but it is more aligned with the Beastie Boys or Rage Against the Machine than Dr. Dre or Snoop Droopy Drawers.

On sale now at the MSC Rudder Box Office

- MSC Film Society presents *Breakfast at Tiffany's* Fri, Sept 26, 9:30 p.m. in Rudder.
- MSC OPAS presents *Marvin Hamlisch with the Austin Symphony Pops* Sat, Sept 27, 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.
- MSC Town Hall presents *Clay Walker* Thu, Oct 2, 7 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.
- MSC OPAS Jr. presents *Little Red Riding Hood* Sat, Oct 4, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater.
- Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra presents *All Time Favorites* Sun, Oct 5, 4 p.m. in Rudder Theater.
- Order **Graduation Announcements** at <http://graduation.tamu.edu> and pay before deadline of Fri, Oct 3.
- Season Tickets** available for MSC OPAS and MSC Film Society. The Box Office also accepts AggieBucks. Call to arrange for special needs.

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