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NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

March 1, 1971

Schedule Change

Previn Here In March

Due to last minute commitments for the composition of film scores, Andre Previn has been forced to postpone the Jazz Workshop scheduled to be held on the campus March 1 through 6. However, during the month of March he will be in the U.S. to fulfill an engagement as guest conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra. During the course of that engagement, he will make two trips to the school: the first on Sunday, March 14, and the second on Thursday, March 18.



The activities scheduled for those two periods are on Sunday, March 14, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M., a session in the Main Auditorium which will encompass jazz performance, improvisation techniques, and a review of jazz styles. This will be a combination lecture-recital, conducted in an informal atmosphere. Also, on Sunday, March 14, at 7:30 P.M. there will be a reception in Mr. Previn's honor at the student center.

On Thursday, March 18, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon an informal lecture-discussion will be conducted by Mr. Previn in Room 113. College students will be excused from classes from 9:30 to 10:20 and high school students from 10:20 to 11:30.

This session will be a relatively free-wheeling affair during which Mr. Previn will discuss symphony orchestra conducting, film sound-stage conducting, film score composing and arranging, chamber music, composing for Broadway shows, music on TV, etc.

At 3:30, Mr. Previn will conduct the student orchestra. The repertoire will consist of one major work chosen by Dr. Mennini and Marc Gottleib.

Drama Workshop

"Endgame," by Samuel Beckett, and "Landscape," by Harold Pinter, will be presented as workshop productions, under the direction of Barry Boys, in the Drama Theatre of the North Carolina School of the Arts, March 2 through 5 at 8:15. Workshop productions are open to the public at no charge, but reservations are advised.

Beckett, who has been called the greatest living European playwright, is also the author of "Waiting for Godot," the classic absurdist theater piece. Now in its 18th printing in the English language, "Endgame" was first performed at the Royal Court Theatre in London in 1957. Harold Hobson, writing in The Sunday Times, said of it that Beckett is a poet and that as such, it is his business to suggest or imply rather than to clarify.

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Both "Endgame" and "Landscape" belong to the school of theatre that does just that—suggest, rather than clarify. Traditional plot and characterization give way to the development of an aura, a probe of emotion, an exposition of a mystery.

"Landscape" was produced in England by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1969 and at Lincoln Center in New York in 1970. In this short play, Pinter explores the kind of silence that can exist amid a torrent of words. The British playwright has received numerous awards for his full-length plays, "Caretaker" and "Homecoming."

The cast for "Endgame" is Delle Chatman, Frederick Avery, Gregg Wilson, and Carol Walker. Boys will appear in "Landscape" with Carol Rogers.

Notice: On March 7, at 6:00 P.M., WSJS-TV Channel 12, will present a ½ hour special "Kalidescope For Sound and Sound." The program will feature poetry, music and improvisations with Alton Buzbee, Clarence Stephens, Alan Smallwood, Randy Powell, and Rich Schoenberger.

Opera Presented

Two comic one-act operas, "The Old Maid and the Thief," by Gian-Carlo Menotti and "Sunday Excursion," by Alec Wilder were presented by the School of Music in the Main Auditorium on February 26 and 27. The production was under the direction of William Beck, with costumes by Deborah Dale and Cam Baird, who also designed the sets. The cast and the NCSA orchestra was conducted by Norman Johnson, the music director for the production.

"The Old Maid and the thief" was commissioned for presentation on radio by the NBC Symphony Orchestra in April, 1937. It is a whimsical story of an old maid who invites a wandering beggar, named Bob, to stay with her for a time. When the old maid realizes that Bob fits the description of an escaped thief, she accepts the advice of her servant, Laetitia, to keep Bob happy by providing him with enough to steal from her so that he won't harm them. Thus the old maid herself becomes a thief and one misadventure follows another until the end when Bob runs off with Laetitia in the ultimate theft.

Sunday Excursion

"Sunday Excursion," which had its premier performance with the National Opera Company, in Raleigh, N.C., takes place during a train ride from New York City to New Haven after a dreary afternoon in the city. Two girls and two boys turn a wasted day into a wonderful one as they manage to get together and pair off on the way to the water cooler.

The cast for "The Old Maid and the Thief" was Don Cranfill as Bob; Debbie Smith as Laetitia; Elizabeth Herrick as Miss Todd, the old maid; and Ellen McLain as Miss Pinkerton, a friend.

The two girls out for a "Sunday Excursion" were Kay Lowe and Dianne Carriker. The boys they meet on the train were John Wilson and Steve Woodbury. Charles Eanes completed the cast.



Photo by Shyvers

"The end is in the beginning and yet you go on." Frederick Avery and Delle Chatman in a scene from *ENDGAME*.



AARON COPLAND, ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST RENOWNED CONTEMPORARY COMPOSERS AND CONDUCTORS, AT WORK. Copland will visit NCSA from March 11 to 13 as the guest of honor at the school's Copland Festival, which will help celebrate his 70th birthday. The festival will feature chamber and choral music, four new ballets, and Copland guest conducting the school orchestra.

Technicians Seek Professional Approach

On Wednesday, February 16, the Design and Production Department held the first in a series of meetings regarding certain problems in that school and possible solutions. The intent (or nature) of the meeting was similar to that of the Drama Department's meetings in December: to get at the root of difficulties and try to work from there. Several areas of discontent were discussed.

This first meeting was presided over by Tommy Williams, President of the SCA, and Alton Buzbee, educational counselor. Their function was primarily to direct questioning and recognize speakers from the department. Williams opened the meeting by presenting discussion topics, general questions which the department felt should be addressed.

The listed topics were:

- 1.) Overall goals of the department
- 2.) Ways to establish "better dialogue between students and members of the administration."
- 3.) An attempt to find the source of decisions and policies.

After a period of general discussion, the meeting went on to the more hard-core realities of needs within the department.

With students and faculty member Agnes Lattick and department head John Sneden leading the session with statements and questions, the real problems were addressed.

What is the main concern of the department?

Essentially, that students receive the kind of professional training they are supposed to be getting and apparently aren't. Numerous reasons were offered as to why, the most important being that students simply haven't the time to work on performances and keep up their other artistic and academic work. It was thought that because of this situation, the school is not maintained in a professional manner. (The hassles which surrounded the recent production of "John Brown's Body" were cited as exemplary.)

Sneden pointed out that it has been very difficult for teachers to teach because of the extreme amount of time spent on productions, lack of space, and the fact that students simply haven't been able to receive necessary training (because of the rigid production schedule the students have been pretty much learning on the job, a precarious method of operation, to say the least).

The scheduling of productions is the greatest of all concerns, because, if solved, it would eliminate others. Because of confused, coinciding and often previously unannounced production assignments, the department has been in virtual chaos all year. The entire body seemed unanimous on the declaration that a "calender of events must be approved so that it can be decided if it is feasible."

Perhaps the major question of the afternoon was raised by Bill Parrish, who explained the dichotomy in the department by asking: "Are we trying to be a school or trying to run a production service?" As the situation stands, the department is apparently somewhere in the hazy, uncertain middle. It was concluded that such a situation "is not a learning situation."

Another area of contention was that the students should be provided with materials which are functional.

While the discussion kept shifting in emphasis, the main points stressed were conflicts between D & P duties and academic responsibilities, lack of sufficient manpower to handle various assignments, and serious "unrealistic concepts" on the part of the administration and staff as to what the department is and what it can and should be, all of which are impairing professional attitudes within the department and the school itself.

Finally, a committee was selected to further investigate the problems and try to come up with workable recommendations and solutions. The committees have been holding meetings and will report to the larger body on Wednesday, March 3, at 1:00 in Room 113.

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