Charlotte Opera Presents "A Knight To Remember"

Charlotte Opera continues Super Season '85-'86 with its second offering of the four production season, "Man of La Mancha" on November 14 and 16 in Ovens Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Based on Miguel de Cervantes' immortal novel "Don Quixote," this Mitch LeighDale Wasserman musical tells the story of the eccentric and idealistic would-be knight who finds nobility in his illusions and sets out to right the wrongs of the world. Originally presented in the fall of 1965, "Man of La Mancha" received every major the atrical award of the 1965-66 Broadway season. One of America's most beloved musicals, "La Mancha" continues to attract standing-room only audi-ences as it is performed not only in the U.S. but in Europe, Israel, Mexico and

Europe, Israel, Mexico and Japan.

Headlining the stellar cast for COA's production is renowned baritone John Reardon, star of Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera. In addition to starring in the musical, Mr. Reardon will also be disrecting the staging of the production. His interpretation of the dual role of Don Quixote-Cervantes has been critically acclaimed as "the consummate Quixote portrayal."

The fiery Aldonza will be sung by dramatic mezzosoprano Janis Eckhart. A featured performer with the New York City Opera since 1981, Miss Eckhart is an international finalist in the 1985 Luciano Pavarotti-Opera Comany of Dalladalahis.

Japan.

ti-Opera Comany of Philadelphia competition. John David Gruett joins the cast of "La Mancha" in the tenor role of Don Quixote's faithful servant

Sancho Panza. Mr. Gruett has received critical acclaim for his many skill-fully drawn and beautifully sung characterizations both in opera and musical comedy.

Returning to Charlotte Opera is William McDonald, as The Padre. Mr. McDonald is a favorite of audiences throughout the Southeast; wellremembered for his beau-tiful tener voice and acting skills as Nemorino in COA's production of "The Elixir of Love" and as Tonio in "The Daughter of the Regiment."

Torio in "The Daughter of the Regiment."

Ted Farlow has been connected with many productions of "Man of La Mancha" as a performer, stage director and choreographer. He brings his experience to COA in the role of Barber and as choreographer adding greater. reographer, adding greater dimension to the scope of the musical.

Powerful sets designed by COA Technical Director Joseph F. Bogdan and dramatic costuming by the talented designer due of Ronald Leamon-Henry Lewis give "Man of La Mancha" the heightened impact of musical theatre

at its best.

Together with a supporting cast of outstanding American talent, this production will be toured by The North Carolina Opera with a full orchestra under the baton of Houston-based conductor Charles Rosekrans Mr. Rosekrans is Music Director Conduc-tor of Charlotte and North

Carolina Operas. North Carolina Opera, touring associate of Charlotte Opera, was founded in 1978 with the purpose of bringing fully staged opera-musical theatre productions to communities throughout the Southeast. The 1985 North Carelina Opera Tour of "Man of La Mancha" includes performances in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Missis-sippi, Alabama, Kentucky and Florida from October 25 · November 11, and again November 18 - 23.

With a score that in-cludes "The Impossible

Dream," the haunting "Dulcinea" and "I am I, Don Quixote," "Man of La Mancha" is certain to self out quickly for both performances on November 14

Ticket prices range from \$7 to \$25 and are available at Charlotte Opera, 119 East Seventh St., or by calling \$72-SING, Monday through Friday, 9-5 p.m.



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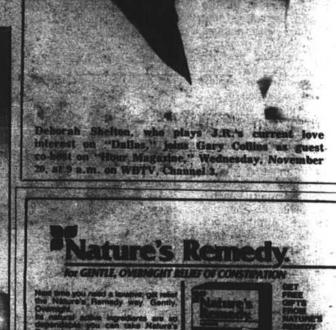
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