

Orchestra gives solid foundation

Opera pleases with minor detractions

by MARK BEECH
and
MALLY KEELAN

Igor Stravinsky's opera *The Rake's Progress* performed by the University School of Music is a complex and difficult work stylistically. However, the University's production, directed by John Zei, meets this work with a pleasing measure of successes and some detractions.

The University orchestra, under the leadership of Richard Grace, provided a solid musical foundation for the production. Frequently the accompaniment predominated over the singers, to their detriment.

The singing in general, maintained a high level of excellence. The spoken clarity, however, presented a distressing problem. Many of the lines of the text could not be understood.

William Wallis sang the leading role of Tom Rakewell with a splendid, well-modulated tone, while Nick Shadow, the antagonist, was sung by Dale McClellan

with his usual vigor and authority.

The unusual role of the bearded lady, Baba the Turk, was performed by Kathy Harney with warmth and resonance. We would like to hear Harney in a more conventional role.

Jeanie Dietrich sang Anne Trulove with clear, precise vocalization. Particularly appealing were her extended arias in I, iii and II, ii.

Critical to the opera's meaning and force are the characterizations of Rakewell and Shadow. Wallis captured

the remorsefulness of Rakewell, but the contrasting self-assurance, "rakishness", does not seem "large" enough for a balanced characterization. McClellan does not seem sinister enough throughout the opera to support his final, fiery exit into Hell.

Dean Tschetter, the talented designer, created six individual settings for the opera's nine scenes. The most effective of these are the churchyard and bedlam sets. The others, particularly the brothel, are spectacular, but overdone for the dramatic needs of the

opera.

Tschetter's inventiveness and artistic skills need only more selectivity and a more considered partnership with the script to make his work complete.

The lighting was occasionally distracting. Changes were often too fast and mundane, particularly in the bedlam scene.

The Rake's Progress will be performed Friday and Saturday at 8 p. m. in the Kimball Recital Hall. See it!

CALENDAR

12:30 p.m.—Film, "Case for Nebraska"
12:30 p.m.—Muslim Student Assn.
3:30 p.m.—Jazz and Java
7:30 p.m.—Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship
8: p.m.—Coffee House Circuit "Chuck Mitchell"
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Registration
7 p.m.—9 p.m. Innocents - Movie - "Goodbye Columbus" 75 cents.

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