

Quartet puts twist on recorder music

The "bad boys of the recorder world" will deliver a repertoire that ranges from pop and jazz to classical during a concert at Hering Auditorium this weekend.

Daniel Bruggen, Bertho Driever, Paul Leenhouts and Karel van Steenhoven make up the Amsterdam Looki Stardust Quartet, whose fare is billed as a fresh, unconventional approach to recorder music. The group will perform at 8 p.m. Friday.

Formed 15 years ago, the quartet of Dutchmen are graduates of the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam. Their battery of recorders includes both Renaissance and Baroque instruments.

Renaissance recorders are typically plain, and with their almost cylindrical bore, produce particularly rich lower tones. Baroque instruments are more ornate, have a conical bore, and produce a more flexible sound.

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The quartet tours with 36 instruments, custom designed by recorder makers from all over the world. The collection includes the Soprano, barely 8 inches long, as well as "The Great Bass," more than six feet long.

mixed program of Baroque, Renaissance and present-day arrangements. Selections are as likely to include Stevie Wonder's "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" and Henry Mancini's "Pink Panther" as a campy, tango rendition of Beethoven's "Für Elise" or works by J.S. Bach and Frans Geysen.

This sort of variety is standard fare for the quartet, who have earned a reputation for defying standard notions about the recorder and its limitations.

They have also become known for a musical philosophy that displays both irreverence and a sense of humor, tempered by a seriousness and dedication of purpose.

Tickets to Friday's performance, at \$20 for adults or \$15 for seniors, students and military, are available at Carrs Foodland, Hott's Music or by calling (800) 478-7328.

Friday's concert will feature a



BAD BOYS—The Amsterdam Looki Stardust Quartet performs here Friday.

FDA players earn 'Fantastick' review

BY JAY BEACH
Staff Writer

Although the Fairbanks Drama Association's production of "The Fantasticks" requires its audience to use its imagination, its themes are firmly rooted in the real world.

The musical, which has been in production longer than any other in the world, tells the story of Luisa and Matt, two young lovers who struggle to keep their relationship alive in the face of their fathers' disapproval. The audience knows, though, that the fathers are only pretending to feud in order to drive the defiant children together.

The narrator played magnificently by Robert J. Miller introduces the cast as "a boy, a girl, their two fathers and a wall." The imaginary wall separating the families' property plays a big part in the production. It represents the psychological barriers that people build in order to avoid dealing with the real world.

Luisa, played by Connie Oba, is a bit confused. "I'm different," she says. "Oh please, God, don't let me be normally and excellent."

Although Oba's voice is vibrant when she is singing "Much More," for example, it is otherwise soft, and her dialogue is often in competition with the harp and piano.

Matt, who is nearly 20 and has gone to college, thinks he is in total control. But Luisa seems to have a strange effect on his maturity. "Because of her I defy biology," he says, "and achieve . . . ignorance."

Matt is played by Brett Huston, an avionics maintenance specialist stationed at Eielson Air Force Base. His movement and facial expressions are excellent, but his voice pales in comparison to Oba's.

The boy's father is played by the wonderfully charming and hilarious Richard Usery. Yip Rogers plays the girl's father, the perfect catalyst for Usery's sarcastic flair. The fathers' voices blend marvelously and their choreography (or lack thereof) is hilarious in the dance numbers. Together they decide that "to manipulate children, you must simply say 'no.'"

But it is Miller who steals the show, as narrator. His expression is superb, and his voice takes on a certain ring of authority in "Try To Remember," especially the reprise which closes the show.

The play opens to reveal the fathers' plot to trick the children into falling for each other. Miller, who also plays the part of El Gallo, stages an abduction scene in which the boy saves the girl's life. The abductor, played by Jim Chumbley, and his accomplice, played by Ed Workman, play hilarious slapstick roles in the abduction. The fathers then pretend to make amends, paving the way for "Happy Ending," which ends Act 1.

The magic begins to wane after "This Plum is Too Ripe," the opening number in Act 2. Matt and Luisa aren't getting along. Matt's father and Luisa's father aren't getting along. The fathers reveal their plot, only exacerbating the situation; love isn't nearly as much fun when your parents approve.

In a fit of anger, Matt yells, "You will never hear of me again. I'm going to become bad."

"Found and Found" shows Matt being beaten, burned at the stake and lain down on a bed of nails in the background, while Luisa becomes more and more infatuated with the narrator. Matt returns from his travels to find that the narrator has broken Luisa's heart. When Luisa sings a farewell to Matt, she tells what happened to her, he replies, "The world happened to me."

There is, of course, a fairy tale ending to "The Fantasticks." The boy and girl are reunited, the fathers tear down the imaginary wall, and everyone lives happily ever after. The plot serves to show that sometimes you have to sink to your lowest level in order to rise to your greatest height.

The sparse stage setting, which resembled a baseball backdrop more than a theatrical set, was functional and very effective. By using simple cloth backdrops and stage lights, FDA was able to transform the stage from one scene to another (with the help of the audience's imagination).

Last Friday night's crowd clearly enjoyed "The Fantasticks." Although Act 2 was a bit sluggish in places, Act 1 was hilarious and the show was an overall success. And since it will be playing six more times over the next two weekends, it can only get better. Call the Fairbanks Drama Association at 456-PLAY for more information.

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Hering Auditorium • March 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 & 21

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— Sun., March 14, 3:00p
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PAJAMA PARTY — Sunday, March 21

Join us for a rollicking time at a pre-show pajama party at the home of Dick and Jo Scott. Festivities begin at Noon and include entertainment by some of the stars of the show as well as a sumptuous Spring Brunch. Tickets to this merriment are \$40 plus your ticket to the show. P.J.'s are optional!

Yes! Please call me with more information about THE PAJAMA PARTY

Tickets are also available at:
HERING BOX OFFICE
Box Office opens March 1 and will open noon-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat., and two hours before each show or call 479-7531

THIS PRODUCTION IS SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS OF FLOT AND THE FAIRBANKS COMMUNITY.

Ancient legend is retold by Tuma Theatre group

The Tuma Theatre group at the University of Alaska Fairbanks continues its journey of rediscovery and exploration of Alaska Native mythology with "The Eagle's Gift," tonight through Feb. 28.

"Tuma" is the Yup'ik Eskimo word for "pathway" or "trail." Tuma Theatre, the Alaska Native performance project at Theatre UAF, researches and explores traditional Alaska Native performance, ritual and ceremonial techniques.

"The Eagle's Gift" is a contemporary retelling of the ancient Inupiat legend. In the Tuma Theatre version of "The Eagle's Gift," much of the story and intent of the original legend is intact, but it is presented with the look and feel of the modern world.

A modern-day Inupiat man and

woman hear the message from their past. The message is the legend. They take a journey through their culture's mythology, which has been cluttered and confused by modern living, and discover the eagle's gift.

The contemporary version includes the use of video projection, rock music and other performance techniques from modern day along with a multicultural cast to retell the legend.

This is the third year Tuma Theatre has produced such a presentation. Each performance borrows elements from previous productions. Last year's presentations were "Uletmun" and "Child from the Sea."

"Uletmun," written by Yup'ik Eskimo Paul Jumbo, also deals with modern-day living and tradition. Uletmun, which means "going home" in Yup'ik, explores the need expressed by many Alaska Natives to understand and preserve the traditions of the past.

Tickets for "The Eagle's Gift," in the UAF Fine Arts Theatre, are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for students, seniors, military, or those participating in this year's Festival of Native Arts.

For information and additional play dates and times, call 474-7751.

CORRECTION

"Back When The Trees Were Gods," a solo painting exhibition by Lisa Rogers, opened Monday in the University of Alaska Fairbanks Art Department Gallery, next to the Great Hall. The show will continue through Feb. 26.

TUMA
Adults \$10.00
Students, Seniors, Military, Festival Participants \$5

Tickets: By credit card, phone 1-800-SEAT (\$1.50 service charge). Tickets also on sale at Hott's, Carrs Foodland, Wood Center and the Theatre UAF Box Office. For further information phone 474-7751

Thursday, Feb. 18, 25
8:15 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 19, 26
8:15 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 20, 27
4 p.m. & 8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 28
4 p.m.

The Eagle's Gift

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

THEATRE

North Pole High School presents "Guys and Dolls" this Friday and Saturday, and again Feb. 26 and 27, in the Oehring Memorial Auditorium. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Cost for adults is \$4. Student and senior citizen tickets are \$3.

LITERATURE

University of Alaska Fairbanks faculty member Don Triplehorn will discuss the book "Seeds of Change: Five Plants that Transformed Mankind" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Noel Wien Library. The book, by Henry Hobhouse, tells about plants that have had an impact on humanity since the 16th century. Information: 459-1020.

LECTURES

Author Alice McLerran will present a family program and sign her books, "The Mountain That Loved a Bird" and "Rock n Roll," at 7 p.m. at the Noel Wien Library Auditorium.

Admission is free. The event is sponsored by Authors to Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Library.

True North Recording Studio in Fairbanks.

Two winners were chosen nightly for four Wednesdays prior to the championship. All eight semi-finalists competed.

Veronica Johnson came in second with "Out Here On My Own." Randy Aquilap placed third with "Rock n Roll."

The contest resumes next Wednesday. On March 24, eight more semi-finalists will compete for another session of recording time.

Anyone 21 or over who is not a professional singer can compete. The PumpHouse also features non-competitive karaoke on Saturday nights.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fairbanks Concert Association, Fairbanks Drama Association and Fairbanks Children's Theatre, and Pier One Theatre in Homer are ARTSENSE participants. ARTSENSE gift certificates provide the gift of performing arts; support the community and help the economy.

HOLDERS use the \$5 certificates to buy tickets to live performances. Information: (713) 667-7399.

MUSIC

Roger McGill won the grand prize at the PumpHouse's karaoke competition last week. His rendition of "The Dance" won him \$300 worth of free recording time at