



Oscar Peterson brings his jazz piano stylings to the Music Hall.

Oscar Peterson gives concert

Oscar Peterson, recognized as the best jazz pianist in the world, will perform one concert at Detroit's Music Hall at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.

Peterson, generally recognized as the successor to the legendary Art Tatum, has for 12 years straight won the Best Jazz Pianist award from Downbeat Magazine and has garnered the same recognition in the annual Playboy music poll.

In 1975, he won the recording industry's Grammy Award. He has appeared in festivals and concerts all over the world and has been billed equally with Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

And yet it is possible that none of this would have happened if promoter Norman Granz had not heard Peterson's music on the radio of a Montreal taxi in 1949. Granz thought it was a record but the hip cabbie informed him it was a live broadcast from Montreal's Alberta Lounge.

GRANZ HAD the driver turn around, caught Peterson in performance, and the result was a "Jazz at the Philharmonic" appearance at Carnegie Hall and the start of Peterson's international career.

André Previn, world famous pianist and composer-conductor, best described Peterson's performance when he wrote: "His imagination during his improvisations is dazzling, his virtuosity is guaranteed to turn all other pianists a lovely shade of envy-green, and his taste is impeccable. He can swing harder than the biggest of big band, and play more delicately than a lute."

Tickets to the Peterson concert are available at the Music Hall box office at 350 Madison, or by calling 963-7680 between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. Group rates are available from Joan Heidt at 963-7622.

Czech star Jan Triska appearing on campus

Noted Czech actor Jan Triska will appear as Henry Bolingbroke opposite the Richard of Frank Maraden in the Stratford Festival's 1979 production of "Richard II."

The production will have three Richards and three Bolingbrokes appearing in alternate performances: Nicholas Pennell and Rod Beattie will appear together as Richard and Bolingbroke, and Stephen Russell will appear as Richard opposite Craig Dudley as Bolingbroke.

A former member of the National Theatre of Prague, Triska has recently appeared in Joseph Papp's Public Theatre presentation of "The Master and Margarita," directed by Andrei Serban, which brought him unanimous acclaim from the American press.

An actor who has been called "the Marlon Brando of Czechoslovakia," he has appeared in more than 80 plays which were performed in such European centers as Paris, Rome, London and Munich, and he has played the lead in more than 100 films.

HE HAS APPEARED in two World Theatre Seasons in London (1969-1970) and was invited to the Theatre des Nations in Paris in 1971.

Triska numbers among his many major roles Don Juan, Lorenzo in "King Lear." He left Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1978 and now makes his home in Toronto with his wife and two children.

Craig Dudley, another newcomer to the festival acting company, is a young actor who has appeared off-Broadway and in summer stock in both classical and modern roles: Laertes in

Theater

"Hamlet," Angelo in "Measure for Measure," King Henry in "Henry V" and Le Beau in "As You Like It," among them.

Nicholas Pennell has recently completed a seven-city tour of American universities with "Rogues and Vagabonds" and "This Fair Child of Mine," in which he appeared with Marti Maraden and Tom Wood.

Together with workshops and presentations at universities, the tour included performances at the Actors Theatre in Louisville, Ky., and at Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

Pennell is familiar to Stratford audiences through portrayals of such characters as Hamlet, Brutus, Ariel, Jack Worthing in "The Importance of Being Earnest," Oswald in "Ghosts" and Victor in the 1978 "Private Lives."

FRANK MARADEN will be remembered for his Saturninus in "Titus Andronicus" at Stratford last year and for such memorable festival characterizations as Sir Andrew Aguecheek in "Twelfth Night" and Solomy in "Three Sisters."

At the close of the 1978 Stratford season he traveled to Montreal to appear as James Joyce in the Centaur Theatre production of "Travesties." Fellow actors in that production included Rod Beattie as Lenin.

Now starting his sixth season with the festival, Beattie was seen last year as Father Ambrose in "The Devils" and as Lucius in "Titus Andronicus."

Stephen Russell's career has included five Stratford seasons in which he has been seen in such major roles as Horatio in "Hamlet," Macduff in "Macbeth," Antony in "Julius Caesar," and Valentine in "The Two Gentlemen of Verona." He also has been featured in productions at the Neptune Theatre in Halifax and the NAC.

Players offer 'Carnival' next

The Birmingham Village Players are presenting their third production of the 1978-79 season with Bob Merrill and Jerry Stewart's enchanting musical "Carnival" at the playhouse, Chester and Hunter in Birmingham.

The show will open Jan. 26, under the direction of Duncan Jones his assistant, Mary Lou Neiger, and the musical direction of Priscilla Benson. "Carnival"

will continue Jan. 27, 28, Feb. 2, 3, 9 and 10, with curtain time at 9 p.m., except for Sunday, Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. Tickets are priced for adults and for students.

The show stars Del Moore, Bud Matych, Betsy Todd, Ben Benson, Don Jackson and Al Ratcliffe.

Interested person may call 644-2075 for ticket information and reservations.

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