

Mini 'Marriage of Figaro' offers imaginative production

The production of opera, as we are all well aware, can be a rather costly business. It is rather difficult to cut costs without a corresponding cut in the quality of the production. But good imagination can go a long way in compensating for some of the more drastic budgetary constraints.



Avigdor Zaromp

This was the case with Saturday's mini-production of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" by a small cast brought here from New York by the Cranbrook Music Guild, which was celebrating its 40th anniversary.

The no-frills event, which took place at Kingswood Auditorium, was obviously no match for a full production.

It featured the main solo characters, with the piano providing the or-

chestral substitution. The stage props consisted of simple boxes and partitions that one could presumably get in an average garage sale.

YET, IN spite of these limitations,

I found this production to be amusing, entertaining with some inspired staging.

The fact that the singing was in English rather than the original Italian may be viewed as another deviation from an authentic production that cannot be directly blamed on the budget.

However, the alternative of Italian singing would have been a mixed blessing at best, at least for those listeners who don't speak the language. This production may not be a sub-

stitute for the Met or the MOT. But these larger companies could have learned from this cast in terms of using their more abundant resources to the fullest.

Avigdor Zaromp, born in Poland, educated in Israel and the United States, has a doctorate in math and has studied piano, music theory and history.

Capture beauty of sunrises, sunsets

Among the most beautiful and unforgettable images awaiting your camera are sunrises and sunsets.

Here are some tips to help you capture them on film:

you want to make the sun appear like a giant ball of fire, and a normal or wide angle lens when you wish to accentuate spaciousness or show a vast, striking cloud formation.

It's important to place foreground subjects in the viewfinder to



photography
Monte Nagler

"frame" your picture and give it a foundation. Subjects can be trees, buildings, boats, even people. Because you meter off the sky, all foreground objects will appear as dramatic black silhouettes.

Remember to take your exposure reading off the sky next to the sun. Make an exposure at this setting and take a couple more at progres-

sively smaller apertures.

You'll find that by underexposing in this manner, your pictures will have deeper, bolder and richer colors.

Try using color slide film instead of color negative film. You'll be pleasantly surprised at the more saturated colors you'll obtain. Then, have enlargements made from your favorite shots.

Pay close attention to horizons. Make absolutely sure they are running horizontally across the viewfinder. A tilting horizon can be very distracting.

Monte Nagler is a professional photographer based in Farmington Hills.

It was late evening, the sun already down, when Monte Nagler took this dramatic sunset photograph at Lake Tahoe, Nev. Notice how the foreground rocks give a foundation to his shot.



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