

Living room concert

# Young trio presents enjoyable program

The second of this year's Living-Room Concerts, sponsored by the Salmon Arm Arts Council, was held February 9 in the Salmon Arm Motor Hotel. Three young artists, Marisa Spencer, soprano; Ann Rally, harp; and David Bull, flute; braved the elements and travelled up from Vancouver to provide a varied and enjoyable concert.

Miss Spencer opened the program with a group of five songs by 17th century composers which, though a little too similar in style, gave the audience an introduction to her beautiful coloratura voice and showed the control she has of vocal mechanics.

This control was further displayed later in the program when she sang two operatic arias, "Ah, lo so" from "Die Zauberflöte" by Mozart and "Caro Nome" from "Rigoletto" by Verdi. The second is an extremely testing piece for coloratura and Miss Spencer made a very creditable attempt at this.

Her vocal development is all the more remarkable as she has only been studying

voice for one year and if she continues in this way one can well imagine an outstanding future ahead. We will watch with interest.

Since a piano accompaniment was not available, the vocalist was accompanied in her songs by harp and flute, a combination which turned out very successfully.

The harpist, Ann Rally, played two solos at different points in the program; "Songs of the Night" by Carlos Salgado and "La Petite Bergere" a French folk tune. The first is a modern, standard repertoire piece which shows off the harp's characteristics and contrasted well against the simplicity and tunefulness of the second folk song.

As well as solo playing and accompaniment Ann performed a duet with the flautist; another modern piece called "Night Soliloquy" which had a suitable desolate sound.

At the interval, noting how interested some of the audience were in her instrument, Miss Rally invited everyone to watch her tune it and some of the younger

members had the opportunity of playing it. Since the harp is an extremely sensitive instrument, affected by changes in temperature and humidity, this was a generous offer and much appreciated.

Last to be mentioned but by no means the least, is the flautist, David Bull. This was a return visit as we had the pleasure of hearing David last year in the living-room concert series. He compered the concert for the trio and did his usual excellent and amusing job helping to put both performers and audience at ease.

David's solo in the first part of the program was a frothy waltz tune which displayed the flute's light-hearted qualities very well; but perhaps the most outstanding part of his performance was the piece originally for two recorders which he and Miss Spencer had adapted for voice and flute. The blend of the two was excellent and the coloratura runs and imitative, "bird-like" phrases made this a very delightful piece to listen to.

As the trio has only been in existence for a few months their versatility and high quality of performance is to be commended. If there was a fault it was that the program was a little too heavy to voice and more solo instrument work would have been appreciated.

The Arts Council was fortunate with this concert in having the financial assistance of the Vancouver Woman's Musical Club in underwriting the travel expenses for the performers, as it was doubtful at one point whether sufficient funding could be found locally for the concert. The Arts Council wish to acknowledge their appreciation of this assistance.

(Reviewed by Nan Dunn)