

Long Theatre, U.O.P. Campus - Stockton

Sunday, October 31, 1982 - 3 p.m.

Friends of  CHAMBER MUSIC

in cooperation with  
San Joaquin Delta College  
and  
University of the Pacific  
present

**Pocket Opera**  
**Offenbach:**  
**La Belle Helène**

OPERA IN THREE ACTS  
(First Performance - Opéra Buffe, Paris, 1864)

Libretto by HENRIE MEILACH and LUDWIG HALÉVY

Premiere of English Translation by DONALD PIPPIN

**Cast**

Helen of Troy . . . . .	Elaine Snyder
Paris . . . . .	Eric Morris
Orestes . . . . .	Maxine Litwak
Calchas . . . . .	David Tigner
King Menelaus . . . . .	Ross Halper
Agamemnon . . . . .	Lee Velta
Ajax I . . . . .	Peter Lewis
Ajax II . . . . .	Larry Venza
Achilles . . . . .	Edwin Barlow
Bachis . . . . .	Laurel Rice
Hand Maidens . . . . .	Elizabeth Jones Susan Sheldrake Vicki Shaghoian

Two Intermissions

La Belle Helene is the story of Helen of Troy and Paris and their love affair which shook the ancient world.

THE POCKET OPERA COMPANY

Donald Pippin, Musical Director

Pocket Opera under many guises has been a fixture on the San Francisco operatic scene for fifteen years. Donald Pippin is its founder, Dramaturg, musicologist, translator, accompanist, and conductor.

1968 is the true birth of Pocket Opera, though the name didn't evolve until 1977--the year before the company held its first repertory season at the Old Spaghetti Factory. (Previously the group was known as Opera Concertante.) The first opera they performed was Mozart's "Bastien et Bastienne" on a program with other chamber music by the same composer. Pippin's first Handel opera was "Admeto," and the repertory has since increased to include: Agrippina, Alcina, Ariodante, Giulio Cesare, Imeneo, Orlando, Rinaldo, Semele, Teseo, and Serse. Though Pippin favors opera in English, the Handel repertory is his one concession to original languages. "I don't see Handel's music as dramatic; the arias are set pieces with no action, just generalized feelings of love, jealousy, revenge. English doesn't enhance anything and takes away musically. All the drama lies in the recitatives."

Pippin says he'd be happy to direct Pocket Opera for the rest of his life, and there is no doubting his enthusiasm as he whips through one of Offenbach's frothy ensembles. He plans more translations as he strives to build Pocket Opera's repertory, which currently consists of thirty three operas from Telemann's "Pimpinone" to Stravinsky's "The Rake's Progress." He would like to do more twentieth century works, but is stymied by their elaborate, unreduceable orchestration. "As music gets more contemporary, orchestral color becomes more important, and I am reluctant to tamper." Future projects include "Martha," Nielsen's "Maskarade" and more Offenbach.

--Excerpts: OPERA NEWS

L A T E C O M E R S

In consideration of the performers and our audience, we have adopted the following policy which will be strictly enforced at all future concerts: There will be NO seating while a performance is in progress.

SMOKING IS PROHIBITED IN THE AUDITORIUMS - PLEASE STEP OUTSIDE TO SMOKE

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT OUR . . . . .

## Second Annual Bread Party

SUNDAY, November 14, 12 Noon to 4 p.m. at the home of  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Heiser, 1155 W. Walnut Street, Stockton.

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NEXT CONCERT:

**TASHI,**

Clarinet and String Quartet

February 20, 1983 - Long Theatre - 3 p.m.

### **Welcome, Young People--**

Parents are encouraged to bring their school-age children to our FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC concerts. We do ask that children under ten years of age not sit in the first five rows of the theater, and that all children sit with their parents. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

Founded by Walter H. Perl in 1956  
Mrs. Mary D. Chamberlain, President

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