

# 'Star Trek' fans on campus keep on 'Trekkin'

(CPS) - Captain's log, star-date 1992.

Twenty six years after "Star Trek" premiered on national television, the series has turned into an international phenomenon that is alive and well, not only among those old enough to remember the original shows, but to those now in college who watch the original reruns are avid fans of "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

"'Star Trek' has really struck a chord for an enormous group of people," said Lisa Hielbohn, a sociology and pop culture professor at St. Lawrence University.

For those who wish to remain politically correct, the newest breed of fans call them-

selves Trekkers (not Trekkies), and just like the latest "Star Trek" film (number six), these fans are perhaps looking toward a kinder, gentler, friendlier galaxy to explore in the future, where Klingons and Romulans share ale with Captain Kirk and his crew.

According to the national Star Trek Fan Club, based in Colorado, college-aged people make up a large percentage of the fan base, but few schools have their own official chapters. Still, schools like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Rochester Institute of Technology and other science-oriented schools are known to have large Trekker populations on campus.

James Doohan, the Canadian actor who plays Scottish engineer Scotty, said he is amazed at the reaction to the show and particularly his character over the years.

"I never get tired of it, because, hey, that's popularity," he said. "I have it thrown at me four lanes across the freeway at 70 miles an hour. People wave their arms at me and yell, 'Hey, beam me up Scotty.'"

Doohan, 71, estimates that about 85 percent of the people who now attend "Star Trek" conventions around the world are newcomers and that the phenomenon "is just getting bigger and bigger all the time."

Although no one is certain why the show is so popular

among so many different age groups, many have theories.

According to Doohan, "one of the things that is so good about 'Star Trek' is that they're all morality plays. People don't pooh-pooh morality things and that's why it's good for all ages."

"It's good over evil and people just love that sort of thing. Maybe that is the magic of 'Star Trek,'" he said.

Gene Roddenberry, the creator of the series who died in October, had said that the show's popularity lies in its optimistic vision of the future.

Bill Kraft, a St. John's University alumnus, agrees and

thinks the Enterprise should be honored on a postage stamp. Kraft, in fact, heads a group called the Enterprise Stamp Committee.

Kraft, who attended Mankato State University for the summer session, told the Mankato student newspaper: "Roddenberry was a true visionary... He was the first and maybe only (science fiction) creator of his time to envision a future in which humanity learned from its mistakes and improved the human condition, rather than deteriorating (it). It's Roddenberry's positive message about what the future holds for humanity that gave 'Star Trek' its broad appeal."

## Southwest Series celebrates 'Three Centuries of Chamber Music'

"Three Centuries of Chamber Music: From Rameau to Barber - Patton Rice, The Nevada Fine Arts Trio and Friends" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Artemus Ham Concert Hall, as part of the Chamber Music Southwest Series.

The evening's recital journeys from Jean-Phillipe Rameau's passionate cantata "Thetis" to Samuel Barber's moving "Dover Beach" and continues with Thomas Pasatieri's "Heloise and Abelard" and Seven Irish Folk Songs by Ludwig von Beethoven.

Rameau fancied himself the successor to Lully in the true French tradition. Rameau like Lully, enjoyed setting lofty scenes of love, conquest and revenge revolving around the classic figures of mythology. "Thetis" speaks of Jupiter and

Neptune battling for the love of Thetis, only to find that she has chosen a mortal. The cantata features the voice of Patton Rice, baritone, and members of the Nevada Fine Arts Trio.

Ludwig Von Beethoven is primarily known as the composer of landmark symphonies and unforgettable piano sonatas. Many may be surprised to find that he arranged over 200 folk songs for piano trio and voice at the request of Scottish publisher George Thomson. He arranged Scottish, Irish, Welsh and British selections. The evening's offerings are all Irish Folk songs arranged between 1814 and 1816.

Samuel Barber, a nephew of contralto Louise Homer, was himself a baritone and studied voice with Edoardo de Gogorza at the Curtis Institute and later in Vienna with John Braun. Barber's setting of Matthew Arnold's haunting "Dover Beach" for voice and string quartet extended his name beyond the United States. This somber poem on the futility of war provokes thought with both local declamation and the dissonance and incessant rhythmic pattern in the strings.

Thomas Pasatieri was awarded Julliard's first doctorate for comparison in 1969. He is primarily an opera com-

poser who had his "Heloise and Abelard" commissioned by the soprano/baritone duo, Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart. It is the story of a monk and a student who are eventually united as abbot husband and abbess wife after several obstacles separated these two great minds and loves. Rice will be joined by Dana Roppolo, soprano and Carol Stivers on piano.

Rice, director of opera at

UNLV, has distinguished himself on concert and operatic stages alike. He has performed locally in the Las Vegas Symphony production of "La Vida Breve" as well as a baritone soloist in Handel's "Messiah."

Tickets are \$6, with discounts for senior citizens, students and military. Tickets are available at the Performing Arts Box Office. For information call 739-3801.

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