



Paul Kreider will be performing various opera selections at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 28 at Artemus Ham Hall.

Kreider brings opera home

by Dionne Drabek

UNLV alumnus, full-time faculty member and internationally acclaimed vocalist, Paul Kreider, describes his return to the UNLV campus as a coming home as well as a dream come true. Yet, the realization of this dream is but one of a succession of such realizations.

Kreider received his degree from UNLV in the late '70s, and then completed graduate school in Arizona. After receiving his master's degree in music and vocal performance at the University of Arizona, he temporarily set aside the completion of his doctoral musical arts degree to perform. He has traveled across the U.S. singing operatic baritone roles in such renowned companies as the Lyric Opera of Chicago where, as a resident-artist, he performed for six seasons.

His travels and flourishing operatic career have also taken him overseas, where he has toured with various companies in Vienna and Salzburg, Austria; Florence and Rome, Italy; Yugoslavia and Japan. Most recently, he has performed Mozart in such works as, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Così fan Tutte*.

Kreider's international reputation has allowed him to sing with some of the distinguished contemporaries of the day including Luciano Pavarotti and Plácido Domingo. One of the many highlights of his career was the chance to work with the late Leonard Bernstein in the opera, *La Bohème*, as well as in *The Quiet Place*, an original piece written by Bernstein.

In a full, resonant voice and laugh, Kreider humor-

ously depicts the baritone as the bad guy who always loses the girl to the tenor. However, there was one time his character did get the girl. In the romantic tradition of life imitating art, Kreider met his fiancé, Rebecca Abram, current part-time UNLV voice faculty member, while singing in the Italian classic, *The Marriage of Figaro* at the St. Louis Opera Theater.

As the male lead, Figaro, weds Susana played by Abram in the famous opera and will now marry her in real life this December.

Presently, Kreider is in the process of resurrecting the faded opera program at UNLV by offering a course in Opera Workshop designed for students who possess some operatic technique. The 15 enrolled students will study the mechanics of a full operatic production including stage movement, character analysis and proper singing style. A continuation of this course, Opera Production will be offered in the spring for the more advanced students who are ready to take on operatic roles.

This fall, Opera Workshop will work on an American opera, *The Game of Chance* by Seymore Barab, a one-act opera about three knitters: one wishes to be rich; another to be famous and the third to be loved. All of their wishes are granted, but in the end they remain miserable. This modern and accessible opera holds a moral for any student "knitting" the aspirations of tomorrow.

A Game of Chance, in addition to more traditional pieces in original language, will be performed in the Black Box Theater on November 24 and 25. Ticket information is forthcoming.


In the spring, the opera

production of *La Pizza Con Funghi* (A Pizza with Mushrooms) will be performed by the UNLV opera students, many of whom are described by Kreider as "extremely talented." This Italian satire pokes fun at

the very operatic characteristics people make fun of. Kreider's selections for production should offer a source of pleasure for all while dissolving the "stuffy" stereo-typical view we often hold for opera.

Students will also have an opportunity to listen to Paul Kreider sing various vocal selections at his faculty recital on Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Artemus Ham Hall. For more information please call 739-3801.

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