Carolina Life

THE GAMECOCK

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The Magic of Cinderella

Local opera company to perform at Koger

By KATHY BLACKWELL Copy desk chief

4

omplete with the evil step- sisters, fairy godmother and handsome prince, the Columbia Lyric Opera will open its season this weekend by performing its version of the classic fairy tale "Cinderella."

The rarely heard opera by Jules Massenet will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday at The Koger Center of the Arts.

Cydney Berry, administrative assistant for the Columbia Music Festival Association, said the directors chose to produce "Cinderella" because it's a different, but beautiful opera and something the whole family can enjoy.

Like many people, Berry wasn't aware until recently that Cinderella is an opera. "It's famous as a ballet, but actually the opera is quite old," she said, adding the opera might have originated as early as 1790.

"There are two opera versions of Cinderella," Berry said. "The one we're doing is very similar to the fairy tale everyone is familiar with. The other one is totally different. Our version has the fairy godmother, the prince and that sort of thing."

Kelly Clark and Catherine Forbes will alternate in the title role. The cast also includes Randal Fer-

guson and Tom Song alternating in the role of Prince Charming, Charlene Hazin and Julie Megginson as the stepsisters, Rhoda Pascal as the stepmother, and Julie Roberts will portray the fairy godmother.

An added plus to the opera will be the costumes and scenery, Berry said. "The costumes are glorious and beautiful. They all are brand new - John Whitehead and his crew have worked very hard designing them for the past four months."

As part of an arts and education program, the cast gave a special preview to Richland District One students yesterday, Berry said.

"The teachers prepared the students in advance about the opera so they would know what was happening during the performance," she said.

Dr. Donald Gray is the opera's artistic director, and Dr. Donald

Portnoy will conduct the Lyric Opera Orchestra. Also involved with the production are Carl Copeland, scene design; Michael Sapp, lighting; Ann Brodie and Radenko Pavlovich, choreography.

The Lyric Opera also will perform such works as Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" and Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte," which will end the season in March.

For tickets to the performance or for season tickets, contact the Columbia Music Festival Associaton, 771-6303.



Kelly Clark and Catherine Forbes will alternate in the title role in the Columbia Lyric Opera's presentation of "Cinderella."

Record producer cuts own artistic album

By TRICIA TITUS Staff Writer **Daniel Lanois** Acadie **Opal Records**

Lanois is not a household name. As a matter of fact, very few people outside of the music industry know who Daniel Lanois is.

Chances are you've never heard of him, unless you are one of the few people who can claim to be avid readers of album sleeves.

That's because Lanois is known primarily as a recording engineer and a producer, his name spoken most often as part of a single entity: Eno/Lanois, producers of, among many others, two albums by U2.

More recently, Lanois has built a reputation for himself as a solo producer, most notably on the latest album by New Orleans' Neville Brothers

Despite the fact that he has been both studio musician and back-up singer for many of the groups who he has produced, Lanois' talent as a musician and songwriter has been sorely overlooked, as his solo album clearly shows.

Named for the province which the French-Canadian settlers of New Orleans left to settle the Louisiana bayous, Acadie is a demonstration of Lanois' French-Canadian and New Orleans influences.

Anyone who has seen the film The Big Easy will immediately equate Lanois' Cajun-style songs "O Marie," "Jolie Louise" and "Under A Stormy Sky," all performed partially in French, with the soundtrack of that movie, including one song sung by the film's star, Dennis Quaid.

The other songs are an illustra-



tion of what a so-called musician's musician can do. In Acadie, Lanois has created an album which is close to being art.

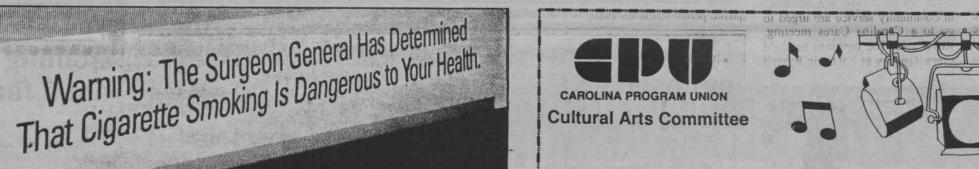
Lanois' producing partner, Brian Eno, adds his signature atmospheric keyboards and vocals to the album. Cyril, Art and Aaron Neville participate as percussionist, pianist and singer, in that order.

Aaron Neville's vocals add a unique quality to Lanois' unconventional version of the traditional "Amazing Grace." Old friends Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr. of U2 lend their talents as bassist and drummer to "Still Water" and "Jolie Louise."

Lanois artistically borrows from the leftovers of the Neville's album, using a drum track for "The Maker," and finally perfecting "Amazing Grace." But what really makes "The Maker" special is the use of harmony basses, a sound which is too unbelievable to be described.

Despite the star-studded line-up, Lanois is the clear star on Acadie. He writes like the best New Orleans blues father, plays guitar like a legend, out-sings most everyone and engineers and produces with his usual brilliance.

See RECORD page 5



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