

Sophisticated Music Reigns At 'The Changing Scene'

BY JOAN M. SMITH

The latest word in elegance to arrive in Rochester is the Changing Scene, the revolving restaurant atop the First Federal Bank Building, downtown. And part of that scene are two young musicians, Peter Candela on the vibraharp (vibes) and Greg Turner at piano.



Candela and Turner

They make their music, the soft sound of original jazz mixed with old jazz standards, week nights in the Cloud 21 cocktail lounge which sits above the revolving dining area.

According to Pete, their musical aim is to depict a concert atmosphere situation; an artistic mood rather than the rendering of routine dinner pop music. And in a recent talk with the Courier-Journal, they expressed their confidence that they have achieved this goal to the public's enjoyment.

"We haven't had any unfavorable comments," said Greg.

"And we even get a little applause," joked Pete.

The road to becoming a part of the Changing Scene started 14 months ago when Pete, returning from Berklee College of Music in Boston, heard that the restaurant management was looking for dinner entertainment. Pete contacted them and discovered their idea was for something artistic, small and not loud which coincided with his concept of delivering jazz not so much for dancing but for listening pleasure. After many interviews and auditioning sessions the job was his.

Pete and Greg then joined forces, arranging and practicing their repertoire for a month before the restaurant opened its doors. They put together a musical performance emphasizing their priority of playing compositions written by themselves and executed with an ESP type improvisation that projects a uniquely smooth sound. They agree that they are happy with the results of their efforts but as professionals they realize

they can't become complacent about it. They intend to continually freshen their performances with changes.

"We put a lot into it, and it's exhausting," declared Pete as he described the rigors of nightly performances.

"You have to pace yourself," commented Greg and added, "there's pressure to always be playing and also to improve your musicianship."

And musicianship along with respect for each other's professionalism and enthusiasm for their work is what makes the duo click.

Pete who is a 1973 graduate of Aquinas Institute and choir director at St. Ambrose will switch from his part-time student status at the Eastman School of Music to a full-time pursuit of courses in Music Theory. He enjoys and has had experience in all phases of musical development; composing, performing and conducting.

While at Aquinas he played with and directed various musical groups. In the composition field he has contributed original music

scores to theater groups including The Flour Town Theater which performed his latest work, *Only Once*, early in August.

Pete is also a rehearsal pianist, playing for productions at McQuaid, Harley School and St. Augustine's Community Players.

Greg, a 1974 Cardinal Mooney graduate, is a member of Pius X parish and will be entering his senior year at the Eastman School of Music in pursuit of his degree in Music Education.

While attending Mooney he played trumpet in the band and belonged to various rock groups which played at school dances and wedding receptions. This ability to play different styles in music "is earning power," Greg contended.

In talking about his future musical endeavors he emphasized, "teaching and performing."

Right now, they are both proud and enthusiastic about their breakthrough onto the Rochester entertainment stage and view the experience as a stepping stone in their musical careers.

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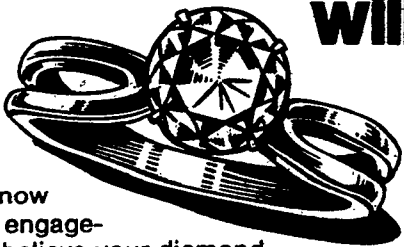
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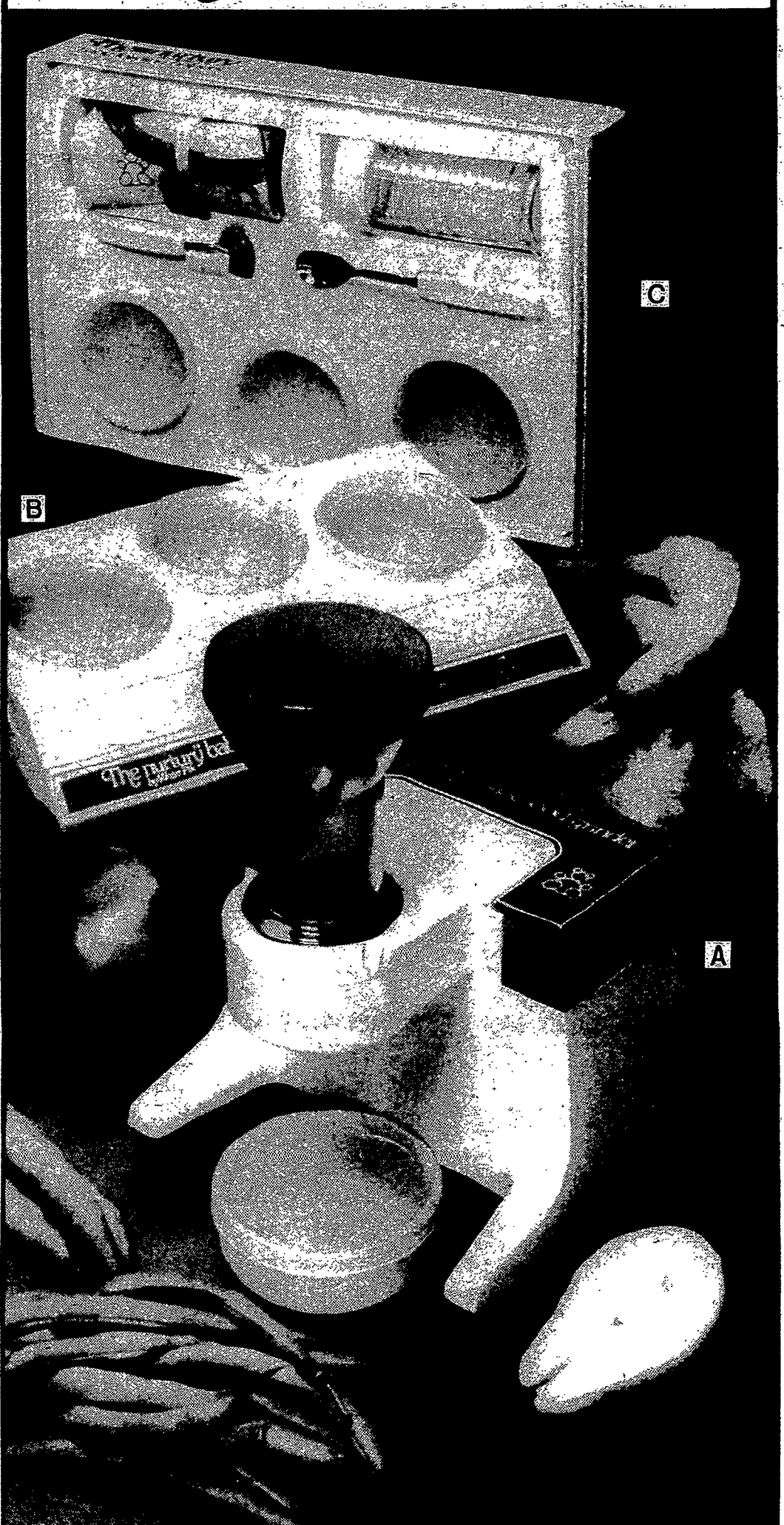
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