

Prosiere production of Addison M. Alspach's opera "Calvario" will highlight the second week of the fifth annual UMD Fine Arts festival. The festival will conclude with presentation May 14-17 of "The House of Bernarda Alba" by the University Theatre.

Scheduled at 8:20 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (May 6, 7, 9 and 10) in Main auditorium, the opera will combine efforts of various departments of the humanities division.

Based upon an original play by Marcus Bach, professor of religion at the State University of Iowa, the opera deals with the Crucifixion rites of the Penitente Indians of New Mexico, a religious sect at one time outlawed by the church for its extreme penances.

Professor of music at UMD, Dr. Alspach wrote the opera, including libretto and music, over a seven-year period. At times dissonant and atonal and at time lyrical, the music represents a variety of idioms and styles ranging from sombre Gregorian chants to brilliant contemporary harshness.

The Espanola valley near San Juan, New Mexico, is the locale. The opera begins on the first day of Holy Week and ends on Good Friday night.

It describes the selection of one of the Penitentes to play the honored role of El Cristo. The struggle in the mind of the human El Cristo, Carlos y Miran, as he debates between going through with the enactment of Christ's Crucifixion or fleeing the cross creates high drama.

Playing the young man chosen as EL Cristo will be Allen L. Downs, baritone, UMD assistant professor of music. Soprano Ann Ransom, Duluth, and Cynthia Owens, Blue Earth, will alternate in the role of Benita Delgado, sweetheart of the Penitente's EL Cristo, who tries desperately to have him renounce the honor.

Contralto Alice Craig, Two Harbors, will appear as Rosine Delgado, wife of Miguel Delgado, played by bass Gerald Walsh, Superior. Delgado is a leader of the sect. Mrs. Delgado was formerly married to a man who 25 years before had reneged on his EL Cristo role. It is his son, Carlos y Miran, who is now chosen for the honor.

Others in the cast are tenors Donald Lindstrom (Paul Delgado), Donald Besser (the elder Miran) and Virgil Pollard (a drunk), all of Duluth; baritones Edward Gruber (Tom Carlson, a Chicago newspaperman investigating the Penitentes) and Antti Lepisto (Rodriguez Chavero, a bribable Penitente), both of Duluth, and Basses Robert Ritchie (Hermano Mayor, chief of the sect), Duluth, and Paul Peterson, Jr. (another drunk), Hermantown.

The University chorus, directed by Professor Downs, and the University orchestra, directed by Robert W. House, associate professor and head of music, will accompany the principals.

Harold L. Hayes, University Theatre director, is stage manager, and William R. Morgan, assistant Theatre director, stage designer.