

Star has both feet firmly on earth

BY MARY LOUISE BIRKS

Times staff writer

*In *Così Fan Tutte*, she "was thoroughly captivating as Despina, . . . In addition to her gifts as a musician, she is a delightful comedienne."*

Santa Barbara News Press

*In *Il Corsaro*, she ". . . had the steadiness and flexibility to cope with the more highly ornamented style of her role. She too has a strong, rich voice and the ability to project the emotional content of her music."*

Toronto Globe and Mail

Headly stuff for a 26-year-old soprano, just two years out of the University of Toronto's opera school, but Caralyn Tomlin has her feet firmly planted on the ground.

Success, in her terms, is "to be a very fine artist." It's something she's reaching for by working hard. "And if I get there, I get there," said Caralyn, who lives on Sava Crescent, Mississauga. "I just want to keep working."

Like most young opera singers, Caralyn's in the business for love not money. She says it's luck that has kept her

working steadily since leaving school. But in the competitive world of opera, others would say it's her drive, her talent and svelt good looks which have landed her supporting roles.

Caralyn has made a modest career out of playing young girls and young ladies "usually of a sweet nature." But she can hardly wait to sink her teeth into meatier roles that will come as her voice matures.

She feels the best performance of her career was as Violetta, the lead in *La Traviata*, in a young artists' presentation of the classic with the Manitoba Opera Company recently.

Most of Caralyn's life has been spent channelling her towards a career in opera. She doesn't regret the strict regime of years of hard work.

She will sing the role of Sophie in the Canadian Opera Company's production of *Werther*, by French romantic composer Jules Massenet. The opera, based on a love story by German writer Goethe, will be presented every other day from March 19 to 29 at the O'Keefe Centre. Curtain time is 8 p.m. except Sunday, when there will be a 2 p.m. matinee.



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Pre-performance jitters are out of the question for this cool, collected lady who loves to sing. Her advice to youngsters thinking of pursuing a career in opera is to study music and piano, and enjoy your singing.

"The competition in this business is rough and musically you need to be the best musician you can possibly be," said Caralyn. "And it's smart economics if you can teach yourself the role instead of having to be taught it."