

# The Master Butcher's Singing Club

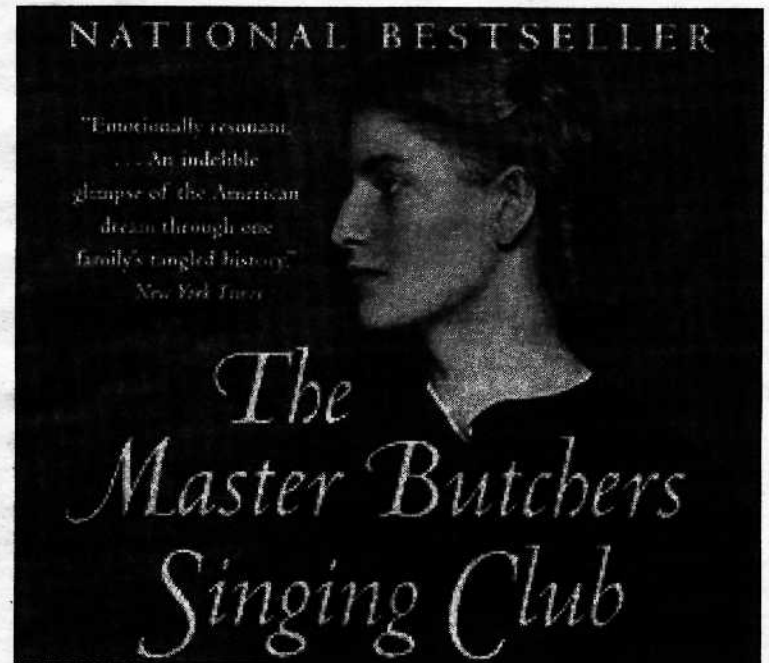
By Tara Rupiper

*The Master Butcher's Singing Club*, written by Louise Erdrich, is a national best-seller as well as a National Book Award Finalist. She is also the author of eleven other novels, such as *Love Medicine*. Erdrich lives in Minnesota and owns a small bookstore, Birchbark Books, in Minneapolis.

*The Master Butcher's Singing Club* follows the story of Fidelis Waldvogel, a surviving soldier from World War I, who returns to a small German village. There, he marries his best friend's wife because his friend was killed in action. He eventually leaves for the United States to make a better living for his family.

Fidelis becomes a business man as well as an advocate for the men's singing club, which stars the best voices in

town. The novel also follows Delphine Watzka, a young woman who loves to perform on stage and eventually joins the circus. Delphine's life eventually collides with Fidelis and his family. From the moment that Fidelis and Delphine first meet, everything changes. I was rather surprised at how wonderful this book was - not that I had my doubts of course! I thought this novel was beautifully written and very artistic. I loved the way the character's lives were intertwined together throughout the entire novel. I really felt an intimate closeness to a lot of the characters. I also felt that her characters were very honest and real.



## Student Spotlight: Theatre

Scott Tolzmann

By Betsy Baldrige

Junior Scott Tolzmann is this month's theatre student spotlight. Tolzmann started getting involved in acting since he could walk. He started getting serious with acting when he was a freshman in high school where he acted in the production of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Ever since that production he became extremely active in the theatre and music departments in high school. The passion that he has for music and theatre has followed him every step of the road and it makes him who he is today.

Tolzmann was introduced to theatre by his dad who took him to numerous shows when he was younger. Tolzmann was interested in silent movies and found it astounding that the performers could bring on emotion without using words. Since watching those movies, Tolzmann realized that acting would be an interest to him and he decided to audition for the school musical. Since that one production of *Beauty and the Beast*, Tolzmann has been appearing in every high school theatrical production that he could.

Tolzmann has been seen in four shows here at Concordia. He played Abraham Van Helsing in *Dracula* as well as Bernard Nightengale in *Arcadia*. He had the role of Charles the Great in *Pippin*, Clement Musgrove in *The Robber Bridegroom* and Rassaneur in *Germinal*. Tolzmann will be performing a scene from *La Traviata* with the Opera Workshop in May.

Tolzmann would love if Concordia would put on a production

of *Les Miserables* or *Shrek: The Musical*. Tolzmann participated in the production of *Les Mis* at his high school and he would love another chance to perform it. Tolzmann states that, "*Les Mis* is an extraordinary show with a powerful message of forgiveness and redemption." He believes that a production of *Les Mis* at Concordia would be a very powerful performance. He also wants to see *Shrek: The Musical* because it's such a funny show and it follows the plot of the first movie. Tolzmann states that he's biased for these shows because they both have strong tenor roles.

Tolzmann's favorite part about the theatre program at Concordia is the people. He believes that it's such a strong group of people because of the diverse backgrounds of acting. Another fact that makes the Theatre Department strong is the talented professors. Tolzmann has gotten a lot out of the program because of the insights that the professors have given him.

Tolzmann isn't involved in Theatre outside of Concordia as much as he'd like to be. He was able to assist summer drama workshops and he was able to build ties with the community education department in his hometown. After college, Tolzmann hopes to audition at the Twin Cities Unified Theater Auditions that Concordia hosts. He would also love to audition for the Minnesota Opera Company. It's safe to say that Tolzmann sees Theatre as a major role in his

life and we should expect to see more of his performances around Concordia's campus as well as outside of Concordia.

