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'74-'75 Season of the University of Dayton Arts Series

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DAYTON, Ohio, September 23, 1974 -- The first lady of song Ella Fitzgerald, an evening with Mark Twain, an internationally acclaimed dancer, and a 16th century madrigal dinner are a few of the highlights of the '74-'75 season of the University of Dayton Arts Series.

Edward Villella, premier dancer of the New York City Ballet and acclaimed as one of the greatest male dancers in the world, will open the season Friday, October 4, with a performance at Memorial Hall, 8:15 P.M.

Aside from holding the title of Principal Dancer with the New York City Ballet for 15 years, Villella has appeared with the Royal Danish Ballet, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the National Ballets of Washington and Canada, and symphony orchestras and civic ballet companies throughout the country. He has performed for Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon, and has been seen on major television variety shows and specials. Last year he flew to Sydney, Australia, with the cast of the Carole Burnett show for a program to mark the opening of the Sydney Opera House.

Appearing with Villella will be Anna Aragno, a frequent partner of his who has appeared with him as guest artist with symphony orchestras across the country. Miss Aragno has danced with the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow, the Ballet di Monte Carlo (partnered by Nureyev) and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet.

Tickets for the Villella performance are available from the University of Dayton Arena Box Office, Dayton, Ohio, 45469.

Synesthesia, a multi-media concert merging sound with "visual music," will be held October 29 in Boll Theatre. Chick and Anne Hebert create and conduct the symphony of vision using a four-projector visual/musical instrument, the chromichord. Original photographic art in slides merging and dissolving into one another are set to impressionistic contemporary music, to form a unique treatment of universal and timeless themes in a "living light art."

Mark Twain comes to the Boll stage December 10, when Jack Thomas presents a one-man performance "Mark Twain on-stage." Thomas, a young actor from West Virginia, will portray the 70 year-old Twain in an hour-and-a-half presentation of excerpts from Life on the Mississippi, Huckleberry Finn, and some of Twain's short stories, with a highlight of Twain's social criticism on topics such as art, religion, and government. Thomas' performances in his tour across the country have received rave reviews.

Performer/composer Joseph Fenimore will present a solo piano recital featuring works by American composers on January 16, at Boll Theatre. Fenimore's 1971 New York recital of American works, one of the highlights of the New York musical season, established Fenimore's reputation as a first rank interpreter of American music.

"Super songstress" Ella Fitzgerald will appear with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra on February 6, at the UD Arena. Her tours across Europe and the U.S. as well as her numerous television appearances and recordings have won her trophies, plaques and citations of every size and order, and the title "First Lady of Song."

Other events in the series will be a photo exhibit by Tony Ray James, November 1; the Speedball collection of contemporary prints shown February 17 through March 7; a February 18 appearance of Herrick and Handler, flute and guitar ensemble; distinguished American poet Howard Nemerov on March 18; and the Yale Russian Chorus (date to be announced).
Additional special events are a 16th century English Madrigal dinner, complete with wassail bowl, foods and entertainment of the period, set for November 20; admission free workshops by the Dimov Quartet, the London Virtuosi, the St. John's Smith Square, and a dramatic presentation by Roni Dengal.

For information on the series, call 229-2610, or 229-2347.