

'Once a Year' SLA Junior Likes Doing Theatre Scores

By Marilyn Kinzel

Music composers shouldn't be bearded eccentrics who exist miserably in dingy garrets—that's the opinion of Lothar Klein, 20-year old SLA junior who is composer conductor of the background music heard during the University Theatre's current production of Shakespeare's "Henry IV, Part One."

MUSIC FOR the play—which opens at 4 p.m. today in Scott hall—required exactly two weeks to compose. Klein began work on Nov. 7. Actual recording of the composition was done in Northrop auditorium when other students were cramming for finals.

He says he likes to do one theater score each year "to keep in practice."

Klein designed the background music for "Henry IV," to bridge the beginning and end of scenes and to aid in mood transitions. He explains that he endeavored "to distinguish mood, rather than person. I do not use a continually happy theme for Falstaff—through my music I try to distinguish his mood in the particular scene.

"**ALL SHAKESPEAREAN** plays are tremendous to write background music to," Klein says. In addition to his recent work, he composed the background music for "Twelfth Night" and "Hamlet." The latter was done for a high school production when he was a senior. Klein believes the work "never really materialized," but considers it useful, since much of its material was useful for the "Henry IV" composition. He believes it to be his "best, from a musical viewpoint."

KLEIN ALSO plays the piano. "When I was younger I thought I'd be concert pianist," he says, "but I decided it's not the life for me—too restrictive." He considers composing "a better way to express myself."

His piano work has received recent recognition. Klein was awarded first prize at the Schubert club piano contest in St. Paul. This competition he characterized as "a track meet with pianos—first we auditioned; then they picked the finalists."

"In the future I'd like to do abstract composing, but I'll have to do other musical work to keep the wolf away," he said, tilting his chair back. "I'd also like to do theater music—it adds glamour and glitter to the play."