ARTS ARTS ARTS Two Summer Operas

Cool fan tuan, Castle Hill, August 1; The Marriage of Figaro, Lake George Opera Festival, August 4.

Indeed the first half of Cool fan tuan should be very funny, the remainder must be pro-

found. The Peter Sellers production at Castle Hill went out of its way to push the

humor before the instrumentation, and did succeed in touching the heart thereafter,

but there were some costs.

The second half, set in a village, was very mod-

ern. Act I was full of slapstick, including

as a substitute for a kitten and mustard and tu-

taught. The acting was lively, and pro-

vided an intriguing contrast to some to-

day's more staid productions but, as he

unfortunately so often does, Sellers went too far.

The music sometimes suffered. The choral

scene, Beifa via tuan was taken too

quickly and carelessly sung. And, al-

though Fred Herbst's direction was

nicely handled, the entire performance

was nicely sung, Susan Larison's Co
to a fare dearly, largely because of

over-attention to exaggerated body move-

ments, most of it quite inappropriate in any case.

For me, a simple and, in an artistic, and gave

us many clues to developments which are to

come later but, hampered further by mediocre singing, it was lightweight at best, and told as

nothing.

Saul Taliany made what must be the

most cynical - almost evil - Don Alfonso in a

hard edge version of his singing at times detracted from what was otherwise a

strong performance. But

Jame Maddalena made amends with a

nicely sung Non state rituali, and Carroll

Fruman with a strangely beautiful rendi-

tion of Un aura amorosa accompanied by

sensational orchestral playing under con-
ductor Craig Smith.

And Act II was nothing short of en-

chanted. Fred Herbst's Prendero quel

brontomuto was quite lovely, and made the

most of the already delicious woodland

playing. And the wonderful softness in the

original to accompany Don Alfonso's "downfall" made her conquest inevitable. sulfur sung was the most im-

aginative that might have been wished for.

For the Lake George Opera Festival took a

rather more conventional approach for the production of The Marriage of Fig-

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rather more old-fashioned arm gestures from

their employers will abolish his feudal

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