

Performance to coincide with creator's visit

By IFAN PAYNE
Music Critic

When the two-act musical drama *Susannah* is performed in McCain Auditorium this week, the production will be seen by the creator of the work, the American composer Carlisle Floyd.

Floyd was born in Latta, South Carolina in 1926, and his first musical training included the study of the piano. His best known teacher was perhaps the concert pianist Rudolf Firkusny.

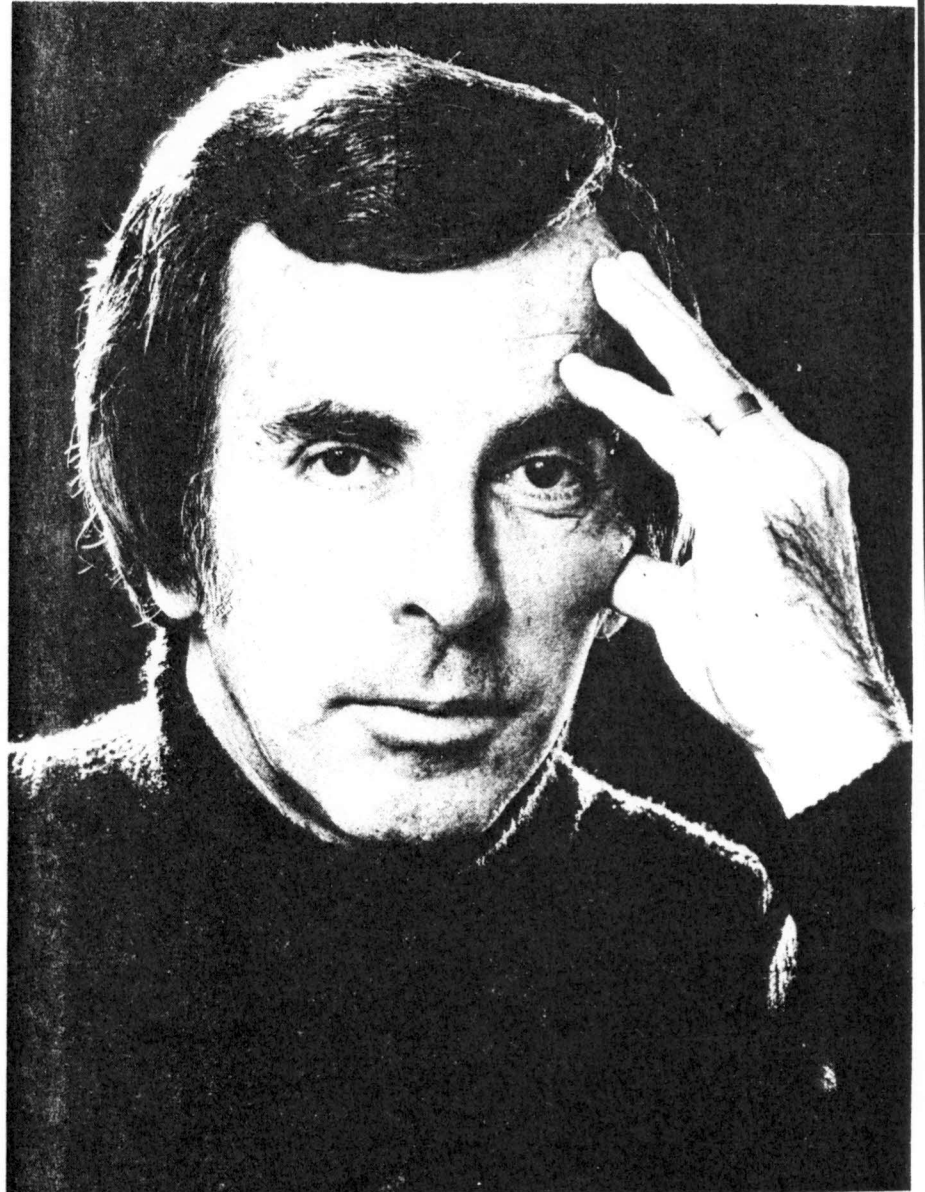
After studying at Coinverse College and Syracuse University, he was appointed, in 1947, to the music staff at Florida State University, Tallahassee. Before achieving a notable success in 1954 with his opera *Susannah*, Carlisle Floyd had composed two other operas, *Slow Dark* in 1949 and *Fugitives* in 1951. His many later operas have placed him in the front rank of 20th century American composers: *Wuthering Heights*, *The Passion of Jonathan Wade*, *The Sojourner and Mollie Sinclair*, *Markheim* and *Of Mice and Men*. Amongst his more recent commissions have been *Bilby's Doll* which was performed by the Houston Grand Opera in 1976, and *Willie Stark* which was commissioned by the Kennedy Center.

In 1976 he accepted a chair at the University of Houston School of Music, where he teaches a class of composers and librettists in music theater.

Floyd, whose visit is sponsored by the Master Teacher Institute for the Arts, will be on the KSU campus for two days. On Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in All Faiths he will deliver a lecture for the general community. This will be free and open to the public.

After attending the performance of *Susannah* on Thursday evening he will be present at the Green Room Reception. This is scheduled to start at 10 p.m. and the opening night's audience and the cast and crew is invited to attend. The Green Room Reception will be free of charge.

On Friday Carlisle Floyd's activities commence at 9 a.m. in room



Susannah creator Carlisle Floyd

204 of McCain with a seminar for music students. The seminar will also feature the compositions of KSU music students.

At 3:30 in All Faiths there will be a seminar for theater and music performers. Topics to be covered will include career opportunities and apprentice programs.

Floyd will attend the *Avant la Piece*

pre-theater dinner at the K-State Union. (Tickets are available from the Union Food Service Department, at \$6.50 each, call 532-6580 for details and reservations).

Finally the composer is scheduled to be present at the second performance of his music drama, presented in McCain Auditorium at 8 p.m.