

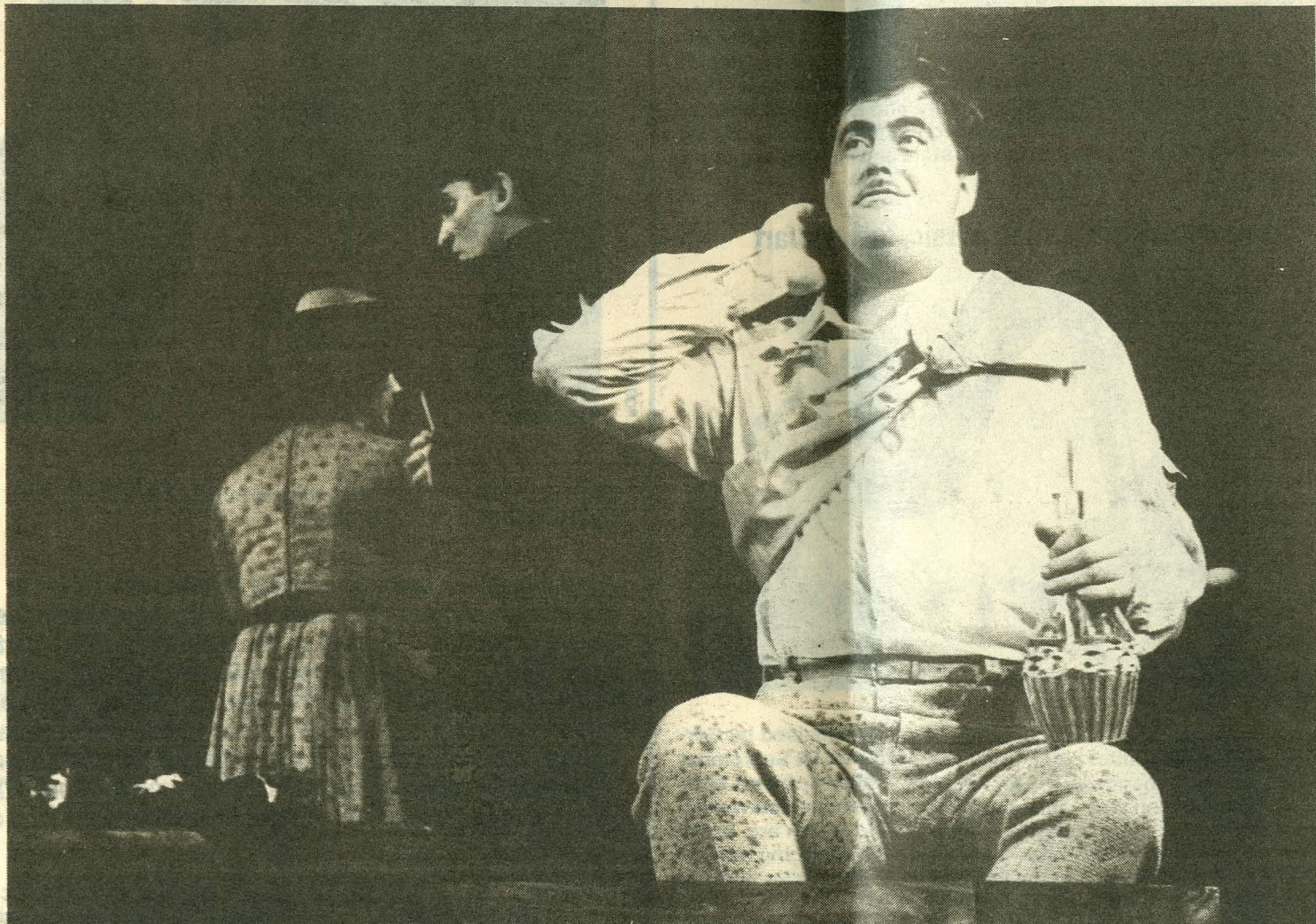
MUSICIANS FACE THE CHALLENGE OF THE 20th CENTURY

Estonia Opera boards the train of European culture, but does it audience?

By Jemima Kallas

"In the beginning, it was all pain," says the director of Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*, which was premièred at the Estonia Theatre earlier this month. The singers, whose experience is built on predominantly 19th century opera, hated the unfamiliar rhythms of this 1940s English work. "Only now," says Neeme Kuningas, "they start to enjoy it."

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No pain! Baritone Mati Kõrts relaxes into the musical complexities of his role in Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*