

Though as thoroughly British as her beloved Covent Garden, Dame Eva Turner wears a bit of Oklahoma on her sleeve — along with her heart. And perhaps that's why she keeps coming back.

Back she did come this fall for an all too brief ten-day visit combining a yeoman's share of business with an equal amount of pleasure. To ask Dame Eva to come to Oklahoma solely to work is asking the impossible. During the ten years she spent here

THE

# INDOMITABLE

12

from 1949 to 1959 she developed a circle of friends that, like a circle, is unending.

In Norman her days were perpetual reunion. Whether it was lunch in the Ming Room, the walk to Holmberg or a party just for her, her conversations were punctuated with joyous hellos and warm embraces and kiss-brushed cheeks.

For Dame Eva herself returning to Norman was a return to many fond memories. It was here with the Oklahoma City Symphony in 1949 that she made her last public appearance. And it was here that teaching became her way of life.

Now 77, retired from her chair at the Royal Academy, no longer singing publicly but just as intensely devoted to the opera, Dame Eva lives within walking distance of Covent Garden and works privately with a select group of students in London.

Like so many times before, her chief business at the University was to conduct a series of master classes for students in the School of Music. She was the first of five visiting artists scheduled for the school this year who will bring the outside world of music to the classroom.

The students she worked with that week don't remember Dame Eva when she was a permanent visiting faculty member in their school. Yet they found her just as captivating, just as knowledgeable, just as effervescent as did those earlier students. They thronged to her general sessions; they vied for places in the private sessions, and they witnessed first hand what a great lady is all about.

DAME

EVA



Affection and humor mark a meeting between Dame Eva and Joe Benton (upper left). Her visits are too short, and it's often hard to tell the difference between hello and good-bye (upper right). Below left, an appreciative audience, and, at right, a grand farewell.

