

Laurika in magical duo

THE CABARET: Laurika Rouch and Wessel van Wyk (Soiree Society).

I MIGHT even have classified this entertainment a recital. Although the material is diversified, ranging from Gershwin, Weill and Brel, through Koos du Plessis and Laurika's own fine setting to a poem by Boerneef to the sheerest trivia, the artists and their presentation in this relaxed soiree' ambience are of concert hall standard.

The impression, of course, is intensified because the magical Laurika is accompanied by Wessel van Wyk, a young concert pianist of some stature both here and overseas, who adds his pleasant baritone to Laurika's voice in some delightful duets.

Among the more impressive of these are I Know Him So Well from Chess, and Ek Het 'n Huisie by

die See, and Youth of the Heart.

Laurika is on the top of her form. Her treatment of two Gershwin numbers, Fascinating Rhythm and The Man I Love, makes one hungry for more.

Her My Open Land remains one of the finest renditions of this haunting Brel piece and her approach to Marieka is surer, more sharply delineated.

Laurika's splendid phrasing is touched with humour. Observe the individual finish to her clever rendition of the Brecht-Weill Barbarasong from The Threepenny Opera.

We are regaled with two pieces from her newest album (I can't wait to secure my copy).

RAEFORD DANIEL