

Grant goes to opera

Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) has received a \$5,000 grant from the Mobil Foundation of New York. Presenting the check to MOT general director, Dr. David DiChiera, of Bloomfield Hills was Alan D. Van Nice, manager of Mobil's Detroit resale district. The grant is earmarked for MOT's current production of Gaetano Donizetti's tragic opera, "Lucia Di Lammermoor," which opened Friday, at Detroit's Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts.

The presentation was made at a luncheon attended by MOT board chairman and former Chrysler board chairman, Lynn A. Townsend, and MOT board members Donald E. Young, vice-president of Burroughs Corporation, both of Bloomfield Hills.

The Mobil Foundation, chartered in 1965 to "participate in philanthropic activities" of an educational or cultural nature, has directed its support primarily to institutions and organizations in

the New York area. The grant to Michigan Opera Theatre represents the largest awarded to an opera company outside of the New York area.

Now in its fifth season at Music Hall Center, Michigan Opera Theatre has grown from an educational program of presenting operatic scenes to a professional company presenting 20 performances of four operas in Detroit, as well as

a six week Opera-in-Residence tour.

DiChiera, the individual chiefly credited with the company's growth, on receiving the grant stated, "We at Michigan Opera Theatre are deeply grateful for Mobil's assistance, and laud their pace-setting efforts toward corporate support of the arts, so vital to the very existence of the arts in this country."

Community plans choir

As part of Franklin's Bicentennial celebration, a special community choir is being formed from adults in the Franklin Area. They will perform a series of concerts in collaboration with local instrumentalists, and will specialize in the works of American composers from the Revolution through today. Folk and popular song, Revolutionary anthems and protest songs that are all a part of our her-

itage will be included.

One need not have previous musical experience to join, and teens 15 and up may audition. The choir will be organized and conducted by David Rossm, a vocal music teacher and professional singer from Franklin.

The first meeting will be Thursday, (Jan. 29) at 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Community Church.



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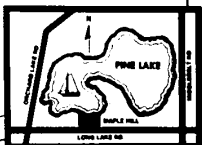
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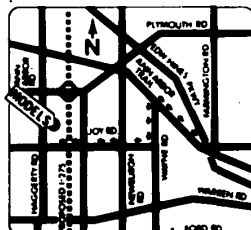
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