

Museum opens with rare art series

Reflecting Imperial Tsarist Russian traditions, Edith J. Freeman and internationally-acclaimed pianist Joann Freeman will perform an evening of Melodeclamation as the first offering of the concert series at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Sponsored by the Founders Society, the performance will take place in the museum's intimate 400-seat Recital Hall at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16.

Rarely included in most artists' repertoire, Melodeclamation, the dramatic recitation of classic literature with musical emphasis, demands the utmost in balance and coordination between the orator and the musician. Melodeclamation was the forerunner of the melodramas popular in Victorian times.

Through funds made available by the Michigan Council for the Arts, the Freeman performance will be preserved on video-tape to become a permanent addition to the historical archives of the museum. A television broadcast at a later date is being considered.

Mrs. Freeman, long a resident of Detroit, first saw Melodeclamation in her native Russia. She mastered the

techniques and instructed her pianist-daughter in this neglected art form. Since the performance will be in Russian, a printed translation will be given to each member of the audience to commemorate the event.

A pre-concert dinner with the artists in the Renaissance Court will feature a Russian menu with wine. Valet parking and masterpiece tours of the museum are included at no additional charge with dinner reservations. Reserved seat concert tickets are \$7 and dinner reservations are \$17.

Other concerts in the season will be:

The Canadian Brass playing classical compositions on Saturday, Oct. 8; Contiguglia Brothers on duo pianos on Saturday, Nov. 12; Quartetto Beethoven di Roma, piano ensemble on Friday, Jan. 27; PDQ Bach with Peter Schickels on Saturday, Feb. 11; Margalit Oved Dance Company on Friday, March 10 and Lukas Foss, pianist and the Dorian Wind Quintet and the New Virtuosi Strings on Saturday, April 15.

For information, reservations and a detailed concert series brochure, call the tic ket office at 832-2730.



Macramers called

Once students have mastered the basic knots, the sky's the limit in Mildred Webb's macrame class which begins Sept. 26 in Farmington Community Center. Wall hangings, handsome pot slings and original personal accessories are created in the afternoon class. Registration continues until all classloads are filled, by calling the center, 477-8404.



Picnic on the lawn

This is the way the lawn at Farmington Nursing Home looked when residents invited friends and relatives to their picnic on the lawn this month. The annual event drew 350 persons who ate hamburgers and watermelon, and joined in a lottery for prizes.

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New Theatre group will do 'Fiddler'

"Fiddler on the Roof" will be the first production of Performing Artists Unlimited, a new theatre company.

The musical, produced in cooperation with Music Theatre International will be presented at 8:15 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16 and 17 at Troy Athens High School, 4333 John R. Road in Troy.

Tickets are \$4 per person.

The company is not a civic theatre group but an association of thoroughly experienced people who will be part of the cast and production staff. Members come from the entire southeastern Michigan area as well as Canada. Performers include drama students and teachers, members of the Rackham Symphony Choir and also

singers from the Windsor Light Opera Company.

Bill Premin, producer and director, is the moving spirit behind the company. His dream is to create a traveling repertory company which will produce shows for the entire metropolitan area.

Musical director is Andrew Henderson, assistant director of the Oakway Symphony who has impressive credentials which range from writing and conducting his own symphony at the age of 15 to working with National Education Television.

For further information call Ms. Ann Kemezis at 721-2660 ext. 290 and for tickets call 645-1755.

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