



Celia Merrill Turner, Will-O-Way director and narrator, tells Paula Burkholder of Lake Orion and Delores Bolling of Birmingham the fine points of quarrelling in pantomime. The actresses will play Queen Titania and King Oberon, whose argument starts the action in "A Midsummer Night's Dream."



Gary Redfern of Brighton and Julie Sines of Redford Township do a pas de deux to Mendelssohn's nocturne. They're members of the Performing Arts Chamber Ensemble, whose director choreographed the ballet. (Staff photos by Gary Friedman)

Music spins a dream

By TIM RICHARD

Shortly after he wrote the musical setting to "A Midsummer Night's Dream," wealthy Berlin composer Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy staged a complete performance of the Shakespearean play, with dancers and chorus, on the lawn of his own estate, impressive for its natural setting. That was in the 1840s.

The late Jesse Bonstelle would stage annual performances on Detroit's Belle Isle—the full play and Mendelssohn's musical setting. That was a half-century ago.

A suite from Mendelssohn's score is common concert fare and a popular selling record. Rarely in a lifetime, however, does one have a chance to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream" the way Mendelssohn himself staged it.

THAT GAP will be filled at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Southfield-Lathrup High School, 12 Mile west of Southfield roads, in a multi-media production of several scenes of the classic comedy-fantasy about quarrelling fairies, enchanted young lovers and country bumpkins.

It will involve 101 persons:

Forty-five members of the Oakway Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Francesco DiBlasi, who had the idea for Oakway's biggest production to date.

Twenty pantomime actors from Will-O-Way Playhouse, directed by Celia Merrill Turner, who will narrate. Five members of the Performing Arts Chamber Ensemble, a ballet company directed by Lin Henderson.

Thirty Choralistsingers from Southfield-Lathrup High School, directed by David Jorlett.

And Helen King, at 76 still an active theatrical costumer at F. Bruesser & Co. in Detroit.

"WE ARE doing two scenes," said Mrs. Turner, who as a child participated in the Belle Isle performances—"the ones centering on the rude mechanics—Quince, Bottom, Flute and the rest—rehearsing their play."

"We're using pantomime in full costume patterned from the Old Vic production. There'll be a certain amount of pageantry."

Mrs. Turner explained the production theory: "In opera, you know, there are recitative and aria. The

recitative tells the action. The aria expresses the mood—the thinking, the suffering.

"Lin Henderson, with her dancers has taken the aria role. She has choreographed it especially for this production."

Thus, the five ballet dancers—four women and a man ranging in age from 18 to 30—will not play characters but express the fantasies and dreams of Shakespeare's characters. "The dancers are the thoughts of the characters," Mrs. Henderson said.

DAVE JORLETT deliberately picked 10th graders for the chorus. "Older singers would have had too mature a sound," he explained.

"They're almost like a Greek chorus," Jorlett said of the singers' function. "They're adjacent to the stage. They comment on the action and sing the words the fairies say."

"Multi-media is really a new experience for the singers. Normally they

sing their parts and are off. They approached this kind of thing. But it has been a challenge for them. An exciting."

To help defray production costs, ticket prices for this Oakway performance are up a bit: \$4 for general

admission, \$2 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available at Hudson's in Northland, Westland and Oakland malls; Hammell Music in Livonia and Birmingham; Madonna College in Livonia; and Royal Music in Royal Oak.



Enchanted by the fairies, young men and women fall in love in great confusion. Demetrius (Tim Hall of Waterford) is repulsed by Helena (Gloria Goodale of Bloomfield Hills).



Avoce Leslye Sklar, first soprano, and Carl Gagliardi, second soprano, are soloists in the rarely performed songs Mendelssohn wrote for the incidental music. They are directed by Dave Jorlett of Southfield-Lathrup High School. Oakway conductor Francesco DiBlasi (left) had the idea for the multi-media production of Shakespeare's play and Mendelssohn's music.



Arts and crafts show offers the works of 60

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

The Farmington Area Jaycettes sponsors its third arts and crafts sale, bringing together 60 artists and craftsmen on Dec. 3 in Farmington High School. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There is no admission charge to the show. The school is located on Shawsee between Porter and Farmington Road.

"It's the best organized show around," said ceramist Gail Thompson, who, with her neighbor, Sue Kafas of Livonia, is back for the third time to show ceramic Christmas ornaments and decorations.

The statement was probably the best testimonial chairman Mary Clappison could have received. The two women travel to shows, at least once a week, throughout the Detroit area.

Handcraft shoppers may remember their painstaking art at the Founders Day Festival last summer, or the Farmington Community Center.

and crafts sale in October.

Each detail is hand-painted on miniature Christmas tree ornaments, right down to individual flowers on Raggedy Ann's printed skirt.

The women say they will have about 35 ornaments to choose from, though the most popular are those with indentations for a personal picture, or those that allow space for handwritten messages.

MRS. CLAPPISON took over chairmanship of the show after it was well-established, initiated as an outlet for handcrafters who might otherwise not have a place to market their creations.

Sixty tables were rented with little advertising. Requests for table rentals came as early as August. Mrs. Clappison said, "and from many newcomers whom we have no idea of how they learned about our show."

The one hard and fast rule the Jaycettes clung to was not being over-ruled with one kind of craft, so the

selection of various kinds is as large as they could make possible.

Sandy Wiess, now a Brighton resident, learned about the show through her family, who live in Farmington, and will bring pieces of her decorative tape painting to the show for the first time.

She paints, with oils, on wood or glass, from patterns, but describes the technique of the ancient art much like a seamstress views a sewing pattern.

"It's the same pattern, but you know how different two garments, or 10, can be derived from that pattern," she said.

CAROL ROWE, of 28370 Bay Tree, Farmington Hills, said much the same thing about her stained glass art.

This will also be the third time Mrs. Rowe has shown her sun catchers. She began making them because she wanted to start a collection for herself that she found was too expensive.

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Sun catchers, made of stained glass, are the works of Carol Rowe, who returns to the Jaycettes arts and crafts show to show her seasonal designs. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)