

Redford Symphony Needs Money, String Players



REDFORD SYMPHONY CONDUCTOR JOHN GAJEC

By TIM RICHARD

REDFORD

"We've been operating on a shoestring for so long that we're almost used to it," says John Gajec.

"We" means the Redford Symphony, of which Gajec is conductor. The shoestring is \$1,200 a year - pretty tight, considering that it offers four pretty good concerts.

Gajec sounds much like former Gov. Romney when he talks about volunteerism from the community in solving problems.

The problem here is to support an orchestra that can provide 120 musicians in a budget of \$8,000 at a time when costs are rising too fast for comfort.

THE FIRST concert -- Sunday, Oct. 26 at 4 p.m. -- Thurston High School -- will feature Minna Pollock as violin soloist with the orchestra in LaSalle's "Symphonie Espagnole."

Mrs. Pollock is a Redford resident, teacher and concertmaster of the orchestra. She's good. She'll have to be, because

himself a violinist and knew the range of the instrument.

"I rely on local talent," says Conductor Gajec. "For \$500 I could get a soloist from New York, but the cost would be prohibitive. Then you'd have to pay for their hotel and travel, too - and they'd play only one concert."

THE REDFORD Symphony Society, sponsor of the orchestra, is selling memberships again for the same bargain basement prices: \$5 for a family for the season, and it gets the entire family into all the concerts.

Indeed, there's a good question when the price isn't up. We used to buy a piece of music for \$15; now it's almost double. We could rent a piece for \$5 for two months; that cost has more than doubled," says Gajec.

"Then when I stuck for a particular instrument, I have to pay more for a musician - he wants to be paid for the rehearsal and the performance, both."

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The Redford orchestra pays some principal musicians, but most are volunteers who love music, enjoy the camaraderie of the orchestra and take pride in the town, says Gajec.

"NOW WE NEED mostly strings - violins, violas, cellos and string basses. We can never have enough of those."

"I also like to have a harpist, who usually have to hire in. We'll be able to get a harpist."

"In the woodwinds and brass we're pretty stable."

Rehearsals, which have already started, are held in Redford Union High School on Thursdays from 7:45 until 10 p.m.

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that could be suspended over the orchestra when it plays in a school gym.

Gajec reports, however, that the Fund has been tapped for such operating costs as piano rental, and the cloud is still unbuilt.

"We might be able to raise some funds if we held a symphony ball," Gajec suggests.

"The Suburban League two or three years ago picked up the idea, and they're doing pretty well with it."

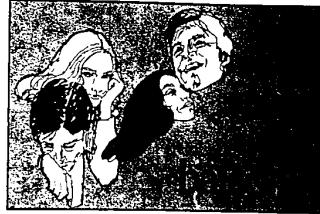
HOW ABOUT the Michigan State Council for the Arts?

"It seems to care only for the professionals. I'd like to know where and how they've used their money. The Piccolo Open Company, the Kenneth Jewell Chorale and one other group seem to get it all professionals there...Community groups don't seem to benefit from it."

The Redford Symphony So-

ciet is in its 22nd year and the orchestra in its 14th. And if John Gajec seems a bit concerned about funding, he's not worried about the audiences.

"Bit by bit, our audiences are growing. People like good music," he smiles.



Theater Film Industry Rating Catholic Rating

Algiers Drive In Remagen M None

Westland War Cast A Giant Shadow None None

Cinema I Number One M A-3

Cinema II That Cold Day In The Park R None

Civic - Farmington The Bridge At Remagen M None

La Parisian 3 Into 2 Won't Go R None

Ford and Middlebelt Prudence And The Pill None B

Garden City Mai Kai The Italian Job G A-2

Farmington and Plymouth Rds., Livonia Penn Penniman Ave. Camelot None A-2

Plymouth

Ovo Vadis Bullitt M A-3

Warren and Wayne Rds., Bonnie and Clyde None A-4

opposite Westland

Quo Vadis Penthouse I The Graduate None A-4

Quo Vadis Penthouse II Doctor Zhivago None A-2

Terrace Plymouth Rd., east of Merriman, Livonia

Industry Rating: M = Mostly acceptable for general audiences; R =勉强可接受 for general audiences; B =勉强可接受 for adults; A-1 = Merely undesirable for adults; A-2 = Merely undesirable for children; A-3 = Merely undesirable for children; A-4 = Merely undesirable for children; B = Merely objectionable in part for all categories.

Community events, mostly held around the season, will be staged by the state according to the Michigan Calendar of Events, just issued by the Michigan Tourist Council.

AMONG the many activities on the calendar which are color coded are Bellaire Autumn Festival at Bellaire, Oct. 11-12, and the Can-Am Auto Race, Michigan International Speedway, Clarkston, Oct. 25-26.

Michigan's Fall Festival at the Michigan State Fair, Oct. 10-12, and at Charlevoix, Oct. 12.

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