

Mozart to spark Oakway's program

The premier American performance of a four-piano concerto is a tale that begins in a discount department store in the suburbs, goes twice to England and will end next week in Birmingham.

The work is "Variations on a Theme by Mozart" by the contemporary Englishman George Malcolm.

It will be performed at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 19 in Seasholm High School, W. Lincoln at Cranbrook, by members of the Birmingham Musicales and the Oakway Symphony Orchestra.

The tale began when Oakway Conductor Francesco DiBlasi, on a shopping trip in Korvette's, stumbled across an obscure London disc called "Music for Four Harpsichords." Most of the music is from the 18th century, but the Mozart variations were written by Malcolm, one of the performers.

DiBlasi LIKED it and sought the score in order to perform it. It turned out to be unpublished. An Oakway board member tried to

track down Malcolm on a trip to England and couldn't locate him.

Then Michael Rasmussen, choir director of Antioch Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, visited a friend who plays in the London Philharmonic and came up with Malcolm's address.

"I sent him a money order for \$20," DiBlasi recalls, "and wrote out my credentials and asked for a copy of the score, expecting a Xerox copy."

"By return mail, I got George Malcolm's own original, pencil score and his handwritten notes on how to perform it—four pages!"

DiBlasi wrote his own orchestral accompaniment to the work, turning it in effect into a concerto.

The trusting Malcolm turned out to be a pianist and conductor of some note who has performed in his own land, Canada, the United States, the Philippines, Japan and Israel. A Mozart specialist, Malcolm in recent years has concentrated on the harpsichord, a keyboard instrument in which

the strings are mechanically plucked rather than hammered, as with the piano.

Malcolm performed in a harpsichord recital early last year in New York.

THE THEME is taken from the andante gracioso movement of Mozart's Duo for Violin and Viola (K. 424). The variations are true to the classical grace of the original theme.

Guest artists in this work will be:

•Martha Sisney Welton, a Birmingham piano teacher with experience in the Pontiac Symphony and extensive accompanying work on both piano and harpsichord.

•Marian Siatczynski, Bloomfield Hills mother of six and student of the piano.

•Blodwyn Stephenson, Huntington Woods piano teacher and former pupil of Mischa Kottler.

THE CONCERT is billed as "an afternoon with the Birmingham Musicales."

Torgow-Toledano

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Torgow of Oak Park announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie, to Avraham Toledano, son of Rabbi and Mrs. Joseph Toledano of Lyon, France.

Miss Torgow is attending Bar-Ilan University, her fiancé is studying at the Jerusalem College of Technology in Israel.

The wedding will take place in Israel in May. After a honeymoon in Michigan and France, the couple will reside in Israel.



Jenks-Vance

Mr. and Mrs. John Jenks, of Farmington, announce the engagement of their daughter, Brooke Marie, to Thomas Robert Vance, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Max Vance of Farmington Hills.

The bride-elect attended Central Michigan University and is employed by Wallace Business Forms, Inc. Her fiancé is attending Lawrence Institute of Technology, School of Engineering, and is employed by Mosher Associates, Consulting Engineers.

An April wedding is planned in Nardin Park United Methodist Church, in Farmington Hills.



Hazel Lawrence (left) and Patricia Webster share ideas on the "Magnificat" by Vaughn Williams which the Birmingham Musicales chorus will perform with Oakway Symphony March 19. Ms. Lawrence is the choral director and Ms. Webster is accompanist. On the same program, seven pianists from the musicale will be featured with the orchestra. (Staff photo)

Getting news in the paper

When submitting information for an article in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, keep in mind the following pointers. Heeding these recommendations will avoid errors and delays.

• Give complete information. It's better to submit too much than too little.

• When an individual's name is to be used in an article, give the first and last name. For example, the members of your church may know that Rev. Smith's first name is John, but other readers may not.

• The information should be readable. Illegible writing leads to errors.

• Include your name and phone number. This allows us to check the information if necessary.

• Photographs submitted must be sharp. A black-and-white photograph is best, but color photos will work if they are in focus and have good contrast.

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New festival set on Copland Opera

Matrix: Midland, a new festival celebrating the arts and science will be inaugurated June 3 with a major revival of Aaron Copland's opera "The Tender Land," conducted by the composer.

The three-week multi-event celebration set in Midland will be the state's first annual festival of the arts and sciences. It is being made possible through a grant from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.

Midland is corporate headquarters for both the Dow Chemical Company and the Dow Corning Corporation.

The new production of "The Tender Land" will be presented by the Michigan Opera Theatre under the artistic direction of David DiChiera. The company has long been regarded as one of the most enterprising in the

nation and has been acclaimed for its policy of offering important revivals as well as new works.

Within the past two seasons, MOT has offered the world premiere of Pasatieri's "Washington Square" and the first major revival of Marc Blitzstein's "Regina."

"The Tender Land" will be directed by Peter Hunt with choreography by Eugene Loring. It will star contralto Frances Bible as Ma Moss.

MATRIX: MIDLAND will also present a unique outdoor production of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" in the Dow Gardens, a natural setting adjacent to the Arts Center in Midland. The opera will star Korean soprano Kyu Do Park as Cio Cio San and George Shirley as Pinkerton. It will be conducted by G. Richard Ryan, artistic director and conductor of the Midland Music Society.

"The Tender Land" will be performed on June 3, 9 and 11 and "Madame Butterfly" on June 10, 16 and 18.

Also included in the 1978 festival will be an outdoor art fair, a lecture series by leaders in the sciences and humanities, a noon film series, the traveling exhibition from the New York Museum of Holography, and concerts by the Festival Orchestra. Several other events are in the planning stages.

In addition to the supervision of both opera productions, DiChiera will oversee a residency program for festival artists. The Festival Orchestra will be conducted by Don Jaeger, director of the Midland Center for the Arts and

administrator for the festival.

"We are all very excited about the opportunity to do the kind of innovative, artistic productions which are appropriate for a festival like this one," DiChiera said. "Matrix: Midland offers the perfect opportunity to explore the intertwining relationship of the arts and sciences. No artistic form is better suited to such an exploration than opera, since it encompasses all the artistic disciplines."

JAEGER SAID, "The Arts Center family is enthused about the potential of this festival. We already have a deeply committed and active arts community. It seems quite natural that a major professional festival should be the next step in its development."

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