

Arbors, jazz due at Fisher



The Arbors will give their first public Detroit concert.

In keeping with Detroit's spirit of renaissance, the Michigan Vocal Jazz Society is showing the town that home-grown jazz may be the best in the country.

"The Arbors & All That Jazz" comes to the Fisher Theater at 8 p.m. April 24, with an instrumental jazz quartet—Bess Bonner, Jack Brokersha, Tom Brown and Joe Lo Duca—plus a vocal jazz quartet many critics consider the finest in the business, the Arbors.

Bonner and Brokersha are Detroit natives who have long been favorites with jazz enthusiasts in the area. And the Arbors are University of Michigan graduates who began their singing careers right out of the U-M Glee Club.

Now based in Chicago, the Arbors spend much of their time doing commercials, but their first live performance, just as in their college days with the U-M Glee Club.

SOME ATTRIBUTE the group's unusual blend to the fact that the quartet consists of two sets of brothers—Ed and Fred Farra and Scott and Tom Henrich. Their sound has been compared to the Four Freshmen, Singer Unlimited and the Hi-Lo's.

Tickets for "The Arbors & All That Jazz" are available at the Fisher Theater Office, 872-4400.

The concert is produced by Ron Fredrick of Birmingham in association with the Michigan Vocal Jazz Society and the Grunyons.

Fredrick is a member of the vocal group, the Grunyons, which is helping

Concerts

promote the concert. Other area residents who are Grunyons include Dick Bourez of Rochester, Jim Hale of Bloomfield Hills, Jim Lese of Birmingham, Roland Starlette of Farmington and Phil Stillman of Birmingham.

Describing the new Michigan Vocal Jazz Society, Fredrick said, "Basically, it's the Grunyons. The Grunyons was started 27 years ago by a couple of ex-Yale Whitefrogs, who are still in the group."

He said the Grunyons sing for themselves and for area people, such as in the Georgian Bloomfield nursing home.

"OUR KIND of music is the Arbors type of music," he continued, "not as popular as rock 'n' roll."

The Michigan Vocal Jazz Society hopes to promote the Grunyons and Arbors type of music.

"Jazz is a tough word," Fredrick admitted. "Maybe jazz isn't exactly right."

But the new group is using top-rated local instrumental jazz personalities to help pull in the crowd for the Arbors.

If the concert succeeds, he said, they will continue to sponsor professionals and amateurs.

"We might even sponsor a concert of ourselves—the Grunyons."

Lola sings

Lola Falana, who was honored as the song and dance star of the year in 1977 by the American Guild of Variety Artists, is appearing through Saturday at Dr's Club in the Hyatt Regency Dearborn Showtimes are 8 and 10:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 and 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.



Undercroft opening with folk musicians

With the conviction that music unites people and brings communities closer together, the founders of the Undercroft coffeehouse open the doors Sunday to a new experiment in local entertainment.

Though there is certainly nothing new about coffeehouses—they have been around since the early sixties—Michele Authier, manager of the Undercroft, sees her venture as more than just a forum for folk musicians.

Located at the Church of the Advent on Middlebelt Road in Cretford Lake, the coffeehouse will attempt to invite individuals—particularly young people—from the surrounding communities in all aspects of the endeavor.

"Local people living everyday lives have some very special talents which we can all share," Authier said.

THE UNDERCROFT will feature local and regional musicians and artists each Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Admission charge is \$2.

Stu Herman and Rick Sanier will

perform, with Greg Ournedain acting as master of ceremonies for the opening night festivities on April 9.

Authier, who is a musician and singer herself, believes there is something universal about folk music that can break down barriers and cut across social boundaries.

"Folk music runs deep. It touches a common chord within us. It tells us we all live the same lives, we are all searching for answers about love, God, death, friendship, crisis and pleasure," she said.

"I want our coffeehouse to be something special," Authier added. "To quote a famous writer, the expression of one soul talking to another."

She says she has already contacted several community groups about the coffeehouse and has received very favorable response.

Those wishing to perform or otherwise assist in operating the Undercroft may contact Michele Authier at 355-3888.

Music, theater programs expanded

Wayne State University, through the College of Lifelong Learning, will offer a new and expanded program in the music and theatrical performing arts starting April 30.

With funding from the Michigan Council for the Arts to support the program in part, this series of short-term workshops and seminars has added new subjects and advanced workshops for the professional and the advanced amateur. New music subjects include a Seminar for Piano Teachers, First Aid for Pipe Organs, First Aid for Band Instruments.

Music workshops and seminars are under the direction of Robert F. Lawson, chairman, Music Department. Faculty conducting the program included Broadway composers Peter Link's Award winners and winner of Broadway The Drama Desk Award

for the most promising composer of the season.

Link is known for his scoring for numerous Broadway productions including Joseph Papp's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" and he has received several Tony Award nominations for his work.

LINK'S ACTIVITIES will include a nurturing seminar weekends on Writing for the Theatre and in the afternoons a workshop in which registrants will create music for specific dramas.

PROFESSOR James Hartway, recipient of the 1978 Award by the Michigan Foundation for the Arts for excellence in music, conducts the Creating Jazz workshops for music performers. Songwriting workshops, for beginners and for intermediate and advanced composers, will be conducted by Dennis John Tim, music

man, arranger and keyboard musician with nationally known bands such as Don Ellis, John Trudell and Austin Mero.

The Theatre workshops, being designed with the assistance of representatives from Southeastern Michigan's more than 100 community theaters, are offered in conjunction with the theater faculty of the university, under the direction of Leonard Leone, head of the theater program of the university.

Workshops will include An Introduction to Acting, A Workshop for Aspiring Actors, Theatre Makeup, Directing Plays, Stage Design and Lighting Effects, Choreography and Stage Movement, and Directing Techniques. These offerings will be conducted at or near university libraries and Studio West Theatres and in one case, The Players Theatre on Jefferson Avenue.

In addition, for community theater officers, board members, and community theater committee chairmen, the university will have a two-day conference June 17-18 at the McGreggor Memorial Conference Center, on "Managing Community Theatre."

This program is designed to permit exchange of experience, problems and techniques in management between representatives of Michigan's several hundred groups of this kind.

There are estimated to be well over 100,000 people in Michigan involved in

community theater activities in one way or another. Most of these theaters offer tickets to the general public for their productions, and many of these performances are near—professional in quality.

THE TRADITIONAL social character of these organizations has been expanded by a concern for the quality of stagework applied to the productions.

The June conference will deal with all sides of these organizations' activities: Theatrical and staging problems, control of costs in building sets and supplying costumes and properties, business management of the operations, operating the box office, promoting the plays, public relations within their communities, casting procedures, maintaining and increasing membership all in addition to the social aspects of membership in a community theater.

The entire program is coordinated by Ivan F. Coffin, of Birmingham, at the College of Lifelong Learning.

Most of the programs will be held on campus on Saturdays and Sundays and are open to the public, not just to students already enrolled in academic programs.

Information on dates, starting times and registration fees may be obtained by calling the coordinator at 577-3406.

Artists contribute works for auction

Sunday, April 9, will be art day at Channel 56 auction. While in the past, works of art, particularly those contributed by the artists themselves, have been mixed in with other items, that is changed this year.

Area artists whose donated works will be sold Sunday from 2 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. include: Richard Jerzy, Zabel Kachadorian, Kegang Tazian, Janis Wagoner, Aviva Robinson, Leslie Masters, Revon Shugart, Frederick Simper, Ray Fleming, Robert Kidd and Robert Wilbert.

Others are John Egner, Peggy Sayed, Charles McGee, John Malone, John Witlesey, William MacArthur, Gary Knodel and Max Shaye.

Other well-known art names in the auction are Emil Weddige, Charles Culver, Al Webber and William Lewis of the University of Michigan.

There will be sculpture by Marshall Fredricks, Morris Brosse, John Pappas and Reynolds Lowe and pottery by J.P. Abrnathy and John Glick.

A large collection of prints has been given to the auction by an anonymous donor. Some of the artists represented include Oldenberg, Matherwell, Larry Rivers, Joseph Abers, Marca-relli, Lindner, Bradley Jones, Lester Joonson and Calder.

Corinne Abatt, arts editor for the Eclectic, will be an auctioneer 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

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