

Young musicians take international honors

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Young musicians from the Farmington area who traveled with Musical Youth International (MYI) this summer are back home carrying the pride that came with winning the first prize trophy in the Copenhagen Youth Festival.

The teens, who represented the United States, took the top award in competition with 37 other musical units from throughout the world.

On tour for six weeks with the people-to-people program, now in its 14th season, the traveling musicians from Michigan are always heavy with local teenagers. This year, 23 of the 75 came from Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison high schools for either the MYI band or chorus.

George Still, director of secondary music in the Farmington public schools, directed the chorus for the third season. Edward Downing of Midland completed his fourth season as conductor of the MYI band.

THIS SEASON'S itinerary began

July 5 in The Hague and wound up Aug. 9 with a final concert in Am Arbor's Hill Auditorium.

The interim time was spent singing and playing in performances in Copenhagen, Berlin, Vienna, Salzburg, and several small villages, always hosted by local families.

The MYI concerts reach audiences in the thousands in schools, churches, parks and the finest of concert halls.

The tours, founded by the late Dr. Lester McCoy of Saline, have been conducted over the years in every continent with a chaperoned group of carefully selected teenagers.

All high school aged, the youth must meet high standards in both character and musicianship to qualify for the tour.

They are chosen in the fall and are immediately committed to weekly rehearsals, which speed up continually working towards the July take-off date.

Bernice McCoy, who carries on her husband's work with MYI, predicted last spring that the 1978 season "would

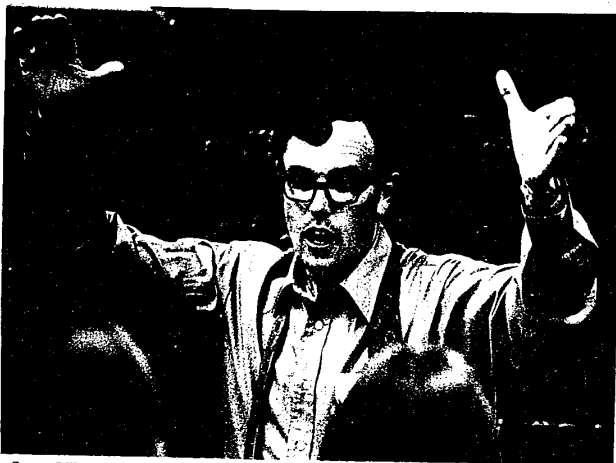
be one of the most memorable."

She based that sentiment, mainly, on the group's participation in the internationally famous Kerkende Festival that climaxed the Netherlands visit, and ultimately brought the U.S. contenders the biggest thrill of their trip.

CHORUS MEMBERS from Farmington and Farmington Hills who helped bring home the honors are Amy Becker, Charles Ferrier, Mark Honeyman, Norman Liebert, Amanda McSweeney, Amy Pawl, Kim Reed, Dorothy Schumaker, Craig Steinhilber, Elena Sylvan, Craig Tarpinian and Don Tregtown.

Band members for the MYI's 1978 season are Carol Blumberg, Marianne Dantel, David Demko, Lisa Johnson, Charita Mangrum, Julie Markovitch, Fred Shepherd and Shane Tucker.

Three of the group did double duty performing in both chorus and band: Thomas Ervin, a cornetist, Todd Langen, trumpeteer, and David Shesiek, on euphonium.



George Still completed his third season as chorus director for North Farmington High School, and director of secondary music for the Farmington school system. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



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Youth minister says

'Support the good things'

By LORRAINE McCLISH

A group of young teens reached out one of their first efforts of service to others with a booth during Founder Festival days that carried T-shirts bearing sign language. Some said "Hi" and others said "I love you."

"They didn't do too well financially, but they are not discouraged," said Tom Renaud, who is winding up his first year as youth minister for Our Lady of Sorrows parish. "We got a lot of inquiries, and attracted a lot of attention, but not much money."

The booth was devised to raise money for the teens' growing interest in Middlebrook Home, a Detroit residence for the handicapped. The idea to sell the T-shirts came from one of the group's members, Dawn Porter, a deaf student who attends Lakeside High School.

"Middlebrook is kind of tucked away. Not too much thought is given to the people there, so our kids thought they'd like to adopt it," Renaud said. "But if we plan a picnic or a party, we need money, and we have about 25 kids here who are ready to roll up their sleeves and go to work on it."

"Some of our kids, like Sharon Thomas," he continued, "worked from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in that booth."

"My job is to minister to them, and sometimes that can mean finding ways for them to minister to others, because that is a need with them," he said.

RENAUD HAS been ministering to youth, one way or another, since the age of 19 when he took over a scout troop that didn't have a leader.

Interim years have been spent as a volunteer tutor for youth in St. Vincent De Paul Society-Sarah Fisher Home, or working as a volunteer with teen

groups "on retreats or just for fun" in the parish before his full-time job as youth minister.

Internship for his degree in mental health was spent at The Sanctuary, a Royal Oak haven for runaways.

He finds, he says, that the youth he comes into contact with in his present position who show overt interests in doing a service for others, always come from homes "where the good things are supported."

Renaud explains: "Most parents will give a kid a 20 minute lecture if he does something bad. But if he does something really worthwhile, more often than not the kid is going to get a that's-fine-son, which takes less than 20 seconds."

He continued, "If I could only send one message to the parents of the world, I'd tell them how important it is to be supportive of their teens, when those teens are involved in worthwhile things."

RENAUD'S JOB covers social activities, community services and religious education of the ninth to twelfth graders in the parish. The teens pick and choose their own plans of action in these areas.



Laurie Krench (at left) and Carol Smith hawk T-shirts carrying sign language symbols to raise money for a service project to the handicapped. (Photo by Sandy Horne)

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-Tom Renaud
Youth Minister,
Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church



TOM RENAUD

"Even in the area of formal religious classes," Renaud said, "if they are hung up on one subject or want to talk about something specific right now, we'll swing with that. Things come up. Kids react. There's always somebody who has a need for study or discussion right now."

In setting their own pace, the planners and organizers took hold of the Middlebrook Home idea for a project and made the initial contact to inquire how they could help.

"The answer," Renaud said, "was people. Just people to visit. We've got a few dollars and so we will. Meanwhile, I think the whole business of service to others will help make the church a relevant, alive, institution to them."

School schedules posted

Those days of readin', ritin' and rithmetick are almost here again. A sure sign of school season is the posting of the schedule for the coming year.

This year, elementary school with walking students, Larkshire, Kenbrook and Schiawassee will be open from 8:55 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Students who are bused to elementary schools will begin their day at 9:20 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.

On Sept. 6, elementary students will attend school only in the morning.

ON THE HIGH SCHOOL scene, senior high students will pick up their registration packets between 9 a.m. and noon and 1-3 p.m. from Aug. 21-25. Teacher workday is scheduled for Sept. 5 and senior high students will report for registration on Sept. 6.

During the morning of Sept. 7, teach-

ers will have a half-workday with students coming to school from 1:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

An all day session is scheduled for Sept. 8.

Senior high students are expected in school from 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS will pick up their registration packets from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-3 p.m. between Aug. 26-30.

Teacher workday is planned for Sept. 5 and teacher preparation day is scheduled for the following day.

On Sept. 7, seventh grade students will report for orientation in the morning. All students are expected to report in the afternoon.

The first full day of school for junior high students is Sept. 8.

The junior high day is from 8:10 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.

Our mailing address has changed

Persons who wish to contribute news items to the Farmington Observer are asked to note our new mailing address.

We are now receiving mail at our local bureau, 2210 Nine Mile, Southfield, 48034.

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"Some of these kids have worked with resident in Oak Hill Nursing Home, on their own, so they know what they're doing," he said. "They know what it's all about."

Renaud's personal goal is to one day operate a foster group home. He has one 14-year-old foster child now but says he wants more. "Many more."

Fall Collection Show

Wednesday, August 16, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Her easy-going California-influenced designs, in autumn's luxurious challis, silk crepe de chine and flannel, turn the corner of the calendar with ease and beauty. 6 to 16 sizes.

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