

Crowd turns out for symphony despite weather

By DEBBIE TEMPLETON

One would have expected ice covered roads and drifting snow to keep even the most avid symphony goers at home Sunday night. But that wasn't the case as scores of music enthusiasts gathered to hear the West Bloomfield Symphony, featuring Flavio Varani, the Brazilian concert pianist and artist in residence at Oakland University in Rochester.

The cold outside was soon forgotten inside as the symphony warmed the spirits with Varani's musical piano interpretation of a Brazilian piece entitled Momprence Fantasy by Villalobos.

Making those T-shirts better than selling them

By JUDITH BERNE

Eric Wiener has discovered designing T-shirts is fun but selling them is no easy game.

Wiener, at 19, is the creative hand behind his family's Ari Art Company. Ari is Wiener's middle name.

Now, a Michigan State University freshman majoring in commercial art, Wiener began creating original T-shirt designs last year as a West Bloomfield High School senior.

"My little brother got a gift for his birthday—a T-shirt with his name written all over it," Wiener described. "I thought, 'I can do that,' and began making personalized shirts first for friends, then for friends of friends."

He charged \$5 for a shirt which took him about three hours to do—first creating the design, then hand-painting it.

AN ATTEMPT to get an established T-shirt manufacturer to produce and distribute his designs left Wiener discouraged and determination to set up his own company.

"It's really a pressure business and very competitive," he said. "It's pretty cut throat when you get up to the big business level. I was kind of turned off by the dishonesty."

"Whatever happened to thinking of the customer as number one?"

Wiener, his parents and two brothers are partners in the fledgling company. His father Irv, a teacher, lends financial expertise and sales leads, which Wiener and a college-age brother follow up.

"The salesman part of it I really can't get into," Wiener says. "It's kind of hard, especially when you're just a kid anyway. I would just like to design."

"My dad says it would be nice to make enough to pay for my college. But seeing other people wear it, seeing it just around, is getting just payment."

He is not now considering continuing the business after college.

SO FAR, Wiener's biggest hit is a fly-

The lively tempo and moving rhythms interspersed with the vivacity of Varani filled the stage at the West Bloomfield High School Auditorium with an energy reflective of the melody's interchanging moods.

Originally titled The Brazilian Children's Carnival, the piece recreates the many faceted expressions of a group of children masquerading in the forms of different make believe characters.

THE FEELING is light and whimsical—a perfect blend for Varani, a Brazilian native.

The audience responded with nothing less than exuberance and complimented the artist with a standing ovation.

A concert afterglow, co-hosted by symphony president Louis Basso for the special guest artist, was an informal way for concert goers to personally greet and meet with Varani and other musicians in the symphony.

Conducted by symphony maestro Felix Resnick, the concert began on a more serious note with a romantic version by Rachmaninoff's No. 2 Symphony. Other works performed by Varani were Gottschalk's Grand Tarentelle and Amparito Roas, a Spanish march by Jaime Texidor, an appropriate counterpart to the festive atmosphere created by The Fantasy.

The final concert of the season will be at the West Bloomfield auditorium March 18 and will feature violinist Gordon Peterson.

Peterson is also affiliated with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and is assistant concert master and lead violinist with the West Bloomfield Symphony. Works featured will include Handel, Strauss and Curran.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the symphony at 626-1550.

Car woes in winter

Cold weather can put your car on the skids.

Here's how to get the best mileage, performance and economy from your car without putting your budget on thin ice.

Engine-Check your ignition system, fuel system, exhaust system, cooling system, brakes and lights, wiper blades and alternator belt.

Winterizing your car should include putting antifreeze solution in the windshield wiper fluid, seeing that the heater works properly, headlight lenses are clean and changing to a lower viscosity winter-grade oil.

Tires—Make sure tire treads are in good condition and tires are properly inflated. Tire treads should be at least 1/4 of an inch deep. Tire inflation pressure drops one pound for every ten degrees drop in temperature, so the pressure should be checked regularly. Use snow tires and put on chains if necessary.

Front wheel drive cars offer better handling and traction under any circumstances, but under really bad conditions where you have to use either snow tires or chains, don't forget that they have to go on the front wheels.

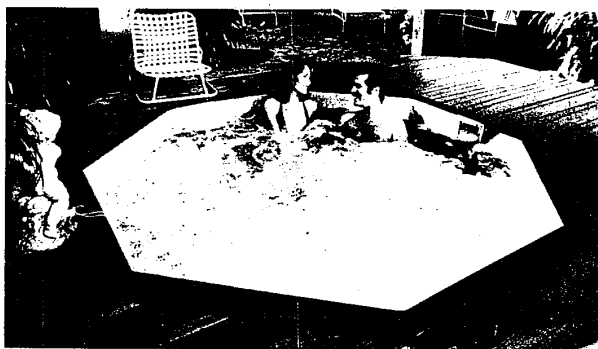
If only two of your tires are snow tires or equipped with chains, it's a good idea to be sure the others are radial. They offer surer traction on snow, ice and wet pavement, resist cuts better than ordinary tires and are recommended by most experts. They are also less sensitive to cold weather and under-inflation.

Emergency Equipment—If you have to venture during dangerous weather conditions, it's a good idea to have a citizen band radio, transistor radio with a spare battery, a winter storm kit with blankets or sleeping bags, extra heavy clothing and boots or overshoes, a first-aid kit, flashlight with fresh or extra batteries.

Also helpful would be a tool kit, an all-purpose pocket knife, nonperishable and high calorie foods.

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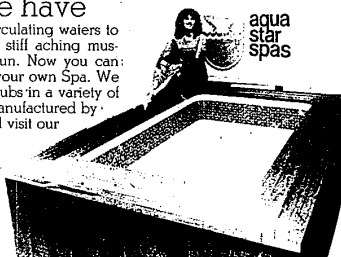
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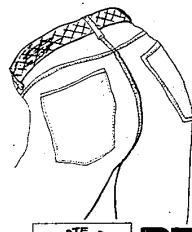
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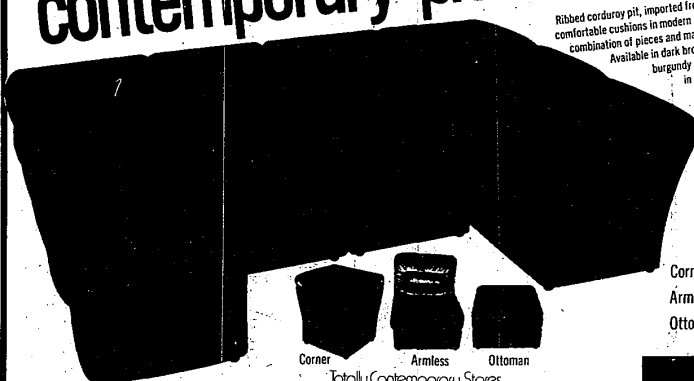
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