

On balance?

Buckner Gibbs and Kristin Reeves-Beauchamp will appear in Wayne State University's Hilberry Theatre production of Alan Ayckbourn's farce-comedy "Absurd Person Singular" opening Thursday, July 5, at 8.30 p.m. for a two-week rµn. This play, by the author of "How the Other Half Loves" and "Bedroom Farce," deals with the rise and fall of three vastly different married couples and their attempts to keep their balance in a changing world. Ticket information on this and other shows in the Hilberry Summer Theatre Festival are available at the Wayne State Theatre box office, phone 577-2972.

Carillon bells ring at freedom festival

Bells will be ringing when the world's largest musical instrument, the Pepid Carillon, comes to Detroit to entrain during the 1970 Detroit. Windsor International Precedom Pestival.

The mobile carillon, evering three musical octaves, consists of 35 bronze hells tuned chromatically and played manually by means of levers from a console.

The largest bell is a middle C weighing nearly 600 pounds, 'thic cutillon is transported on a specially designed trailer.

Since March 1976, the varillon has toured 180,000 miles, performing open of concerts in nearly 600 cities and to already and the construction of the concerts in nearly 600 cities and to already and the construction of the concerts in nearly 600 cities and to already and the construction of the based of the control of the co

Mayors open festival at Detroit's Hart Plaza

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Concert builds in excitement

By MARK E. GALLO

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra
(DSO) reaffirmed that it is indeed one
of the strongest musical organization in
the country with the Meadow Brook
Music Festival Sunday Pops Series
opener in Baldwin Pavilion.
Celebrated American composer, the
late George Gershwin, was the toast of
the evening for the concert dubbed
'That's Music by George'' Under the
bation of Michael Tilson Thomas and
featuring renowned planistic whit Earl
Wild, the DSO's program covered five
major works by Gershwin in 120 miniutes. It's safe to say that no one left
disappointed.
Performing for a near-capacity
crowd on the Oakland University campus near Rochester, Thomas, Wild and
company played a very short first set
comprised of the overture to "Let' em
Eat Cake" and the 1925 concert in F
for Plano. The evening's excitement

e program. The enigmatic Gershwin was a prol-The enigmatic Gershwin was a prolific composer of both popular song and symphonic masterworks during the very brief period of 1919-1937. Certainly the song most closely identified with min is his "Hapsody in Blue," which combined his two musical fortes. Premiered at New York's Acolian Hall in 1924 with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra, "Hapsody in Blue" was the song that allegedly "made a lady out of jazz."

jazz."
From the opening clarinet passage
Sunday evening, a nearly tangible aura
of excitement hung over Meadow

The former Buffalo Philharmonic conductor Thomas seemed somewhat at odds with the score and with his charges. Earl Wild, on the other hand, seemed entirely at ease with the pieces. No stranger to Gershwin, he has to his credit a Gershwin. Taspired composition of the conduction of t

sition entitled "Fantasy on Porgy and

sition entitled "Fantasy on Porgy and Bess."

The many soloists were exquisite, especially concernmaster Gordon Staples, though none could compare with the sheer brilliance of Wild. His hands were a delight to behold; happilly galloping up and down the keyboard, dancing across each other; or taking full sweeps across the keys, his diction and execution were impeccable.

The closing number, with Wild absent, was the 1928 "American in Paris", a beautiful sketch of Americanized impressions of the 1920s galety that was Paris for Gershwin.

The symphony, again, gave it all it deserved, though it seemed that Thomas was not in the same space they were. His extroverted stage presence seemed entirely out of character for the dignified Biso, although in fairness it must be mentioned that past collaborations have, been resoundingly successful.

I suspect the DSO is more at ease with less flambouyant conductors, which may be why so many simple cues were missed and occasional sloppiness shown through. Most outstanding on the final selection was the five-piece percussion selection. These gentlemen have to be among the best in the world. Their accents were always exactly on time, homorous and tasteful as they were intended to be.

Overall, this tribute to one of America's greatest composer/songwriters was a fun-filled, exciting evening initing at things yet to come. Hopfeully more comfortable patrings of conductors with material will make the season 100 percent Meadow Brook par.

Crowd of 600,000 expected

More than 600,000 people from Detroit and Windsor areas are expected to watch the 21st annual Freedom Festival Fleworks, beginning at 9:55 p.m., Friday, June 29, on the Detroit River. Made passible again this year are yard grant from Hudson's and Stroits, the deplay will consist of seven those of colorful fireworks, fired from four barges anchored in the river. The barges will be midway between the American and Canadian shores, opposite the Vererans Memorial Building, Cobo Hall and Ford Auditorium.

All possible vantage points along both sides of the river will be cleared to accommodate people wishing to watch the fireworks. The river will be closed to all commercial traffic be-

One of the nation's most unusual mil-itary music corps will perform at noon, Monday, July 2, at Detroit's Hart Plaza Amphilheatre as part of the Interna-tional Freedom Festival activities.

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"AS I WATCHED that event, I made notes of the crowd's reaction to the colors, noise and novel features," Wright said. "Only by noing the ooh's and aah's can we know what the people like, and then develop displays more enjoyable than they do greeding years."
"Each year, we carefully space the novelty shells so there's no lull in the

The group, founded in 1929 as a Boy Scout troop, was named after the first black pilot at Selfridge Air Force Base. A memorial concert will be played at the airfield in honor of C. W. Dickerson.

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Band gives noon concert

tional Preedom Featival activities.
The C. W. Dickerson Buggle, Fife and
Drum Corps is one of the few all-black
trouges of lisk lind. The 30-member uniformed hand from New Rochelle, N.Y.,
will demonstrate precision marching to
the sounds of ancient and modern milithe sounds of ancient and modern milithe sounds of ancient and modern mili-

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show. We also schedule the thunderous fireworks periodically," he said. "We don't want to have too long a gap without a racket, or the show will lose its

out a racket, or the show will lose its momentum. "Lastly," he said, "we build to a cres-cendo to knock the people off their scats. They really enjoy our finales." Jim Sorgi, president of American Fireworks Co, heads a crew of 26 peo-ple who set off the fireworks. Coinci-dentally, his firms is haved in Union.

ple who set off the fireworks. Coincidentally, his firm is based in Hudson, Obio.

Consistently one of the highlights of the six-day Freedom Festival, the nearly hour-long fireworks desplay this year will cap a day's activities which will include a 160-mile race by large, off-shore race boats and an enibition by the War Birds of America, featuring World War II aircraft.

Events at the Hart plaza, starting at moon and running up to fireworks time, will include music by the New McKingery Cottonjekers Band, strolling barbershop quartets, and banjo players.

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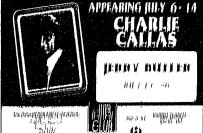


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