

Women arrange rhapsody of blooms for Brahms

By CORINNE ABATT

Get your sweet Williams and geraniums, the Brahms Festival Flower Show will be as well orchestrated as a symphony.

Vera Sullivan of Wyandotte, flower show chairwoman, and Bernadette Byrne of West Bloomfield, co-chair, have had plenty of on-the-job training to handle this April 10-12 music-floral extravaganza with more than average aplomb.

Mrs. Sullivan is chairman of the national council of state garden clubs and Mrs. Byrne is registrar of the national group and district director of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan.

They worked closely together on the National Federated Garden Clubs convention held in Detroit two years ago. They are both practiced in working with large numbers of people and long lists of committees.

Mrs. Sullivan said the proposal to put on such an ambitious flower show fashioned after the famous Chelsea show in London, England, was proposed by Antal Dorati, conductor, and the Detroit Symphony.

The idea was approved at the state convention of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan last summer. She was given the job of heading up the project.

"It will be the largest of its kind,"

she said. "There are 232 garden clubs in the state and most are involved."

Working on the show in all kinds of jobs are members of the Women's Association and the Junior Women's Association of the Detroit Symphony as well as the symphony's staff. Mrs. Henry Domalski is flower show coordinator.

The show will be staged on the grounds of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford house in Grosse Pointe Shores.

The goal is to raise \$100,000 for the Detroit Symphony.

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like (it) some day."

Both women said that because April wasn't (at least at first thought) an ideal month to hold a flower show, they had some initial concerns.

"We had a lot of sleepless nights worrying over the weather problem," Mrs. Byrne said.

BUT, AFTER consulting with a number of experts and revising the original plans, it was decided to put everything under cover to combat the unpredictability of early April.

The main exhibit area will be a tented "Marquee" on the grounds. This floored, heated tent, 240-by-60 feet, will house many of the juried exhibits.

The horticultural division entries will be located in the greenhouse on the grounds — succulents, begonias, Afri-

can violets and many other specimen plant exhibits.

There will be special feature exhibits such as the large, colorful and comprehensive display of geraniums by John G. Wendland, senior groundskeeper at Oakland University. Wendland, cowboy hat and boots, and one of the most respected growers in the area, is nicknamed the "geranium cowboy."

IN THE house, the entire first floor will be used for more than 30 exhibit type arrangements.

"All of these," said Mrs. Sullivan, "will be coordinated with the paintings and decor of the home."

The design division schedule for this part of the show is planned in great detail with the locations, type of furniture and general atmosphere of the setting

listed. Each room has an overall theme.

The entrance hall, for instance, is titled, "The Overture"; the study, "The Maestro"; the dining room, "The Sonata"; and the gallery hall, "The Intermezzo."

General admission tickets are \$10 with an additional charge for conducted tours of the floral exhibits in the home.

Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and shuttle bus service will be available from designated parking lots.

Thousands of visitors from all parts of Michigan and the midwest are expected. Ticket sales, even before the public announcements, were brisk.

For information on the flower and related events, call the Detroit Symphony office during regular business hours, 961-0700.

Association shows paintings

Sharlene Beck will show her bright, dynamic watercolor paintings as "Featured Artist of the Month" at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association in the Rental and Sales Gallery through April.

After receiving her degree in art education from Wayne State University and teaching in Southfield, she continued her training as a graphic artist and received her master's from Wayne State University. During that period, her prints were exhibited at the Detroit Artists' Market, the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association and Wayne State University.

Later Ms. Beck returned to studying painting at the art association under

Marilynn Dewenskus and Mary Jane Bigler. Her watercolors have been juried into the Scarab Club Silver Medal exhibition, the Michigan VII Show and the student show, at the art association.

In describing her feelings about her work, she said, "I have discovered recently that there are many different sides to me and they reflect in my paintings. For me, painting is an escape into the world around me, and a painting is like a giant puzzle in which the pieces must fit together."

"I GET CAUGHT UP in the complexity of flat design, shape and the fluidity of my medium. Color is also the key to the movement and expression I

try to achieve. To me, the ultimate is when all the pieces of the puzzle fit together in a complimentary fashion. Color, design and shape are the essence of me."

Book reviews offered

A new program, "Books At Lunch," will begin at Baldwin Public Library at noon Wednesday, April 2.

Reference librarian Karen O'Donnell-Leach will launch a series of noon book talks with a discussion of Arthur Gold's "Misia: The Life of Misia Sert."

Bring a sandwich. The library is at 351 Martin. For information, call 647-1700.

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