

# Judges assess young musicians

By CARMINA BROOKS

"Music is for Everyone," said the blue and white label buttons of 669 young people from the Detroit area as they showcased their talents during the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs junior festival Saturday in Birmingham.

All day the classic strains of great composers echoed in the halls from 16 rooms of the First Presbyterian Church at 1659 W. Maple while busy fingers of the musically talented received ratings from 26 area judges.

There was no advance ballyhoo on the festival, but Mrs. Charles Betzner of Royal Oak, chairman, said that thousands of people are involved annually, the paperwork is staggering, and it took three days to tune 17 pianos after they were moved into the church.

State Federation of Music Club officials were in Birmingham last weekend to direct and observe the festival. It has become so successful the local methods are being copied by the national organization.

Faith Rickey of Lansing, president of the Michigan Federation, said the organization is celebrating its 63rd anniversary this year. Growth of the junior music clubs in southeastern Michigan has mushroomed so much in recent years that this year's festival was split in half.

One was held in Warren on March 15 with 400 students participating, Mrs. Rickey said. Many area young people will go on to win scholarships, study at

schools like Juillard in New York City, become faculty members in universities, concert artists and conductors, she predicted.

TYPICAL OF THESE young people participating in this low-key event Saturday is Betsy Thomas, a 14-year-old honor student at Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills.

Betsy began taking piano lessons when she was 6. Her parents, Ward and Lois Thomas of Franklin, noticed that Betsy, their youngest of eight children, could play tunes on the piano by ear when she was little more than a toddler.

When Betsy was 10 she won a national gold cup honors trophy from the music club festival judges and she has been rated "superior" for three consecutive years since 1976.

Saturday, Betsy chose to perform Beethoven's Sonata and the Scherzino by Gillock. She will not know her rating this year until she is notified by her teacher, William Hohmeyer of Beverly Hills. Hohmeyer has been teaching Betsy for eight years and he usually won't start 6-year-olds. He encourages her to perform and on Feb. 16 this year she won a blue ribbon medal from the National School of Bands and Orchestras Association.

Betsy says she is leaning toward medicine as a profession, not music, but that doesn't bother her parents. "There is no substitute for music for personal satisfaction," her father said. "It gives her confidence and pleasure

to us."

Students don't compete against each other at the festival. Playing time is limited to 15 minutes. They perform two selections from memory in a room with a judge. Care is taken to make sure the judge has no prior knowledge of the student, and does not even know the name of the performer.

THERE IS NO PRESSURE on the students, Mrs. Rickey said. At the music club festivals performers are given a rating within the level of their progress on their natural talent and potential ability. They are rated excellent, very good, good, and fair. Judges grade students on talent, musicianship, technique, poise, intonation, and diction.

Music is classified to indicate the level of playing, ranging from primary, elementary, medium, moderately difficult, difficult, very difficult, musically advanced, and senior piano concerto.

Included in the categories are piano solos, duos, trios and quartets, hymn playing, vocal, vocal ensemble or choir, and band. Instruments include strings, wind, percussion, accordion, guitar and handbell performances.

Students receive Michigan Federation of Music Club certificates showing their ratings by the judges, which are forwarded to their teachers.



Easter bazaar

Alice McDonald, arts and crafts teacher in Farmington Nursing Home, is surrounded by some of the residents' hand work that will go up for sale Thursday, April 3. The Easter bazaar runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the home, 30405 Folsom, and offers items all suitable for Easter gift-giving. Proceeds of all of the home's sales are used to buy more materials to keep the therapy classes self-supporting. There is no admission charge. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Museum exhibit traces history of photography

Troy Museum has just assembled an exhibit which traces the development of photography between its earliest experimentation in the 1790s through the 1920s.

The exhibit is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays, 2-4 p.m.

Groups should contact the museum for an appointment for a guided tour. These are generally conducted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 2-4 p.m. but other arrangements may be made.

The exhibit has been assembled in four sections under The Development of Photography — "Capturing an Image," "Stereoscopes: Three Dimensional Images," "Civil War Photography" and "If it isn't an Eastman it isn't a Kodak."

"Capturing an Image" shows examples of all early types of photographs. The world's first successful photograph was taken by Nicéphore Niépce on a pewter plate in 1826.

It was Louis Jacques Mdaguerre, however, who finally found a way, using common salt, to fix the image. In 1839, he made his discovery public. The Daguerrotype was silver on copper plate, but later photographs were the Ambrotype, where the image was on

glass, the Tin Type, where the image was on metal, the Carte de Visite on paper, and the Studio Card on film. Examples of all of these may be seen.

ALTHOUGH EARLY photography was discovered by the French, it was the Germans who excelled in perfecting cameras, and there are examples of many different cameras. An interesting fact is highlighted in the explanatory.

There were religious objections to early photography, because it was thought blasphemous to capture the image of man who was created by God in His own image.

In early photography, film was put into the camera one plate at a time. It was Kodak who produced the first roll of film. Eastman joined with Kodak and commercialized photography for the ordinary man for a hobby. There are 13 examples of these cameras, folding and box models and a Kodak film tank for developing film at home, together with the Kodak catalog of 1924, in which they are all for sale.

The museum is just west of Livonia on Wattle in Troy. For further information or group tours call 689-9178.

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