

# Kenneth Jewell Chorale to open music festival

By TED SEEMEYER

The Kenneth Jewell Chorale, almost a staple of the metropolitan area's musical diet, will open the 17th Meadow Brook Music Festival at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 26.

With them in Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University campus will be the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the baton of festival artistic director Neville Martinson. This marks the chorale's 36th appearance with the orchestra.

Founded in 1952 by the now-retired Kenneth Jewell, the chorale is made up of 50 skilled, professional musicians who teach, direct church choirs, and are featured as soloists in opera companies and major choirs.

Eric Freudenman of West Bloomfield, a tenor, charter member and professional pianist, has been the director since 1976.

"It is a thoroughly professional group," he said, "and the greatest thing about them is the way they sight read. . . . We practice 2½ hours a week and they must be able to sight read extremely well because we go through a great volume of music in a short span of time."

The chorale, Freudenman said, has never had a soloist in Schubert's "Mass in G" and "Modern Minstrels," a religious service of music and spoken poetry.

Freudenman is responsible for the review and research of all music performed and in recent years has uncovered many unusual compositions by great composers, past and present.

Chorale members come from many of the communities in this area — Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, Southfield and Troy, among others.

Five from Birmingham are Maria

Cimarelli who was featured and recorded (London Records) with the Detroit Symphony's "Die Aegiptische Helena" performed in Detroit, Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center. Ms. Cimarelli is a frequent soloist with area suburban symphonies and chamber groups.

Gretchen Long Woods, alto, has been heard as a soloist in Schubert's "Mass in G" and "Modern Minstrels," a religious service of music and spoken poetry.

TENOR DONALD DANIELS is a soloist with many church choirs. Basso Sean M. Neill has appeared in oratorios and operas in Oberlin, O., Interlochen and in church choirs. Basso Jon Witrock is a widely known church organist, choir director and music educator.

Another basso, Roger Jamison of Bloomfield Hills, a well-known pianist, is currently performing in a one-man

show throughout the state, "Meet Franz Schubert." West Bloomfield soprano Dorothy Berry has appeared in Michigan Lyric Opera productions, was a soloist with the Detroit Symphony in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and a finalist in a Metropolitan Opera audition in Denver.

TWO CHORALE MEMBERS from Southfield who maintain busy performing schedules are sopranos Jan Casal, who has been a soloist in oratorios and appeared with Michigan Lyric Opera, and Diane Siegel, who was a member of the Albuquerque Opera Theatre and the Florentine Opera Company in Milwaukee before moving here.

In addition to giving her master's degree recital, soprano Carol Petty of Troy was a soloist with Western Michigan Symphony Orchestra and sang in Beethoven's "Choral Fantasy" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

The Kenneth Jewell Chorale is partially funded by Michigan Council for the Arts. Over the years the chorale has given concerts throughout the Midwest and received words such as "flawless" and "electrifying" from critics.

Freudenman said the only difference in the chorale over the years is that, "Now, we are doing more work with the Detroit Symphony."

The 1979 performances of "Die Aegiptische Helena" by Richard Strauss in New York and Washington as well as at Ford Auditorium are evidence of the growing partnership between the two groups. More recently, the chorale and

symphony recorded the mystic Symphony No. 3 by Polish composer Karol Szymanowski.

The chorale has also done two Christmas recordings on the Musical Heritage Society label, "Bring a Torch, A Christmas Celebration" and "A Child is Born."

AT THE MEADOW BROOK Festival opening next week, their second in two years, the women's section of the chorale will sing to the incidental Music of Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream."



BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL

## Attorney elected JWF leader

Southfield attorney Benjamin F. Rosenthal was elected president of the Jewish Welfare Federation Junior Division at a recent meeting.

The Junior Division is the JWF's year-round organization for young adults of post-college age through their mid-30s. Activities include social and educational events along with fundraising for the Allied Jewish Campaign-Israel Emergency Fund.

Rosenthal succeeds Kenneth J. Safran.

A West Bloomfield resident, Rosenthal is a member of the Oakland County Estate Planning Council and the Franklin Hills Country Club.

Jonathan R. Roth of Troy was elected chairman of the division's executive

committee. New vice presidents are Richard C. Ludwig of Huntington Woods, James A. Safran of Birmingham and Cary L. Scheuer of Southfield.

Members-at-large of the executive committee include: James Deutchman of Troy, Sheryl Friedman of Huntington Woods, Bruce Gershenson of Farmington Hills, and Charles L. Schiff and Lou Spicor of Southfield.

Re-elected to the division's board of directors were Jeffrey N. Borin, David H. Gutow, Lynn Keidan, Cynthia A. Leven, Philip J. Liner and Steven Steinway of Southfield.

Also, Shelley Navarre of Troy, David Handelman II, Philip Handelman and Paul Zlotoff of Birmingham, and Cynthia Mandelbaum, Marta Rosenthal

and Robert H. Schwartz of West Bloomfield.

Others are Sharon Edelman of Farmington Hills, Nancy C. Finkel and Sue Kaufman of Bloomfield, Joel D. Lerman of Huntington Woods, and Mark Y. Segal of Royal Oak.

Newly elected to the board were Norman Ask, Julie Borin, Gerald Brody, Carol Klau, Cathy Peterman, Betsy Snider and Susan Strager of Southfield.

Also Bruce Etkin, Aviva Friedman and Lori A. Sommer of Birmingham, Steven L. Harris of Detroit, Samuel Fried, Kenneth M. Korotkin and Warren E. Robinson of West Bloomfield, David Gubov of Bloomfield Hills, and Fred Goldenberg and Helen Kay of Huntington Woods.

## Tikvah BBW meets June 24

Tikvah Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women will have their paid-up membership luncheon at noon June 24 at Sutton Place Clubhouse in Southfield. Attorney Louis Barden will speak on "Jewish Humor — What's Funny About It?"

Guests may attend. There is a nominal charge for non-members.

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