

New musical venture to attract young talent

By CORINNE ABATT

The success of the Sarin Symphonic Wind Ensemble is predicated on response by musicians rather than money. Usually when a new group like this one is in its embryo stage, money is the all important factor, plus talent, of course.

This one, under Irving M. Sarin of Livonia and headquartered in Southfield, is operating from a solid financial base, thanks to an anonymous benefactor who wants to do something significant for young musical talent.

Sarin, trumpet player with an extraordinary background in symphonic performance and teaching, said he would like to have "between 40 and 60 musicians" in the ensemble.

He added, "We are obviously looking for people deeply interested in music with ability above the average." They will be chosen through auditions which are scheduled for Monday, Sept. 8 and Tuesday, Sept. 9, 4-9 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 13 during the day. Auditions will be held in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, 25000 Evergreen, Southfield.

Wind and percussion musicians of high school age from the tri-county area (and Livingston County) are invited to try out.

Sarin said, "We would also consider

some unusually gifted youngsters in the eighth grade."

The list of instruments includes saxophone, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, piccolo, flute, English horn, French horn, trumpet, trombone, and tuba.

"All brass, woodwind and percussion instruments," said Sarin, "everything, but strings."

Rehearsals will be held Saturday mornings at Southfield-Lathrup High School on Twelve Mile just east of Evergreen in Southfield.

THE IMMEDIATE GOAL for the first season is a four-concert schedule. Future plans are more sophisticated — tours, nationally acclaimed guest soloists, television appearances and recording sessions. The coming season's concert dates are Nov. 21, Feb. 6, April 10 and June 5.

Sarin said, "Principal players with many major symphonies will be considered as soloists."

As to the repertoire, Sarin said it would range from serious classical music to selections from Broadway musicals.

SARIN'S MUSICAL CAREER began when he entered New England Conservatory of Music in Boston in 1938 at 17. He studied trumpet with Georges Mager and entered Juilliard for gradu-

ate work in 1942.

As a scholarship student at Juilliard, Sarin went on tour with the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Serge Koussevitzky and that same year played with the Radio City Music Hall Orchestra.

In 1943, Fritz Reiner offered him the position of first trumpet with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He stayed there for 18 years and played under many of the best known conductors of the world who made guest appearances with the orchestra — Bernstein, Stokowski, Ormandy, Dorati, Munch, Paray, Gould, Tiomkin, Stravinsky, Copland, Klemperer and Beecham.

At that time the orchestra's season was 28 weeks, so Sarin performed as first trumpet during the off-season with many leading orchestras — the National Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, Israel Philharmonic, and the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra. He also taught at the Chautauque Institute, Chatham College, Duquesne University and at the American Symphony Orchestra League.

Sarin left professional playing in 1960 to teach trumpet at the University of Wichita in Kansas. During the three years he was there he developed the Wichita Brass and Percussion Ensemble to the point where it was invited to

play at a national convention and made commercial recordings.

SARIN ACCEPTED an offer to be first trumpet with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in 1963, staying one year and decided to return to teaching. He has since taught in the public schools in Michigan and has taught and lectured at Michigan State University and Delta College. He and his wife, a pianist, both have private studios.

The new wind ensemble, he said, will give talented young musicians an opportunity to develop their skills far beyond what is possible in a school music organization. He sees the level of performance as high and the approach sophisticated.

Sarin said he is delighted with the response he has received in Southfield from cultural director, Marlow Belanger, and the people who are working to promote the idea.

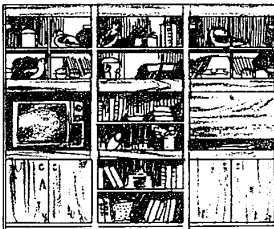
"I consider Southfield," he said, "to be the most progressive community in the tri-county area. Southfield has a total commitment to the arts and there's nothing like this in other cities."

The gift from the anonymous donor plus individual donations made it possible for the project to receive matching grant support from Michigan Council for the Arts.

For an appointment to audition, call 354-4717.

Anne and Irving Sarin will be working together on getting the new wind ensemble launched and into action. (Staff photo by Bill Bresler)

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