

Singer grew up with rich musical heritage

By CORINNE ABATT

When the spotlight falls on Jane Smith at the Opera House Restaurant, she feels just about as secure as a performer can.

Singing is so much a part of her life that she couldn't imagine growing up without it.

Miss Smith, a 1975 Seasholm High School graduate with a bachelor's degree in music, University of Michigan, 1979, sings at the restaurant several weekends a month under the stage name Janelle Smith. She and two or three other vocalists will be featured Oct. 10-11.

"I like to do light opera and show tunes," she said, "and I do four different sets a night."

For Miss Smith, lyric soprano, this

opportunity as a featured soloist rounds out her life and career to what she had always figured it would be. Daughter of Helen and Robert Smith of Troy, both singers, she works full time as a secretary to Birmingham gemologist, Jim Krol, and finds this aspect of the business world "fascinating."

She teaches voice to private students ranging in age from 17-33, studies herself with Eva Likova, is an occasional soloist for church services and weddings and with instrumental groups.

UNTIL MS. LIKOVA, University of Michigan professor, decided to spend her sabbatical leave in Birmingham, Miss Smith drove to Ann Arbor for her weekly lessons. In addition to teaching privately, Ms. Likova is finishing her

book on Bel Canto singing.

Miss Smith also studied with Leonard Johnson, director of the U-M Men's Glee Club, while in Ann Arbor and attended special workshops at Manhattan School of Music, where she worked with Ellen Faulstich and Judith Raskin. But, her hometown and her family really shaped her future.

"I grew up in the Birmingham Junior Musicale program," she said with a smile.

That's no surprise to those who are

aware of her mother's long commitment to that organization, as well as Tuesday Musicale of Detroit.

Growing up with parents who love music and are deeply involved in it (Mrs. Smith also is a lyric soprano, Robert Smith, is a tenor), Jane and her brother, Mark, naturally picked up on the interest.

SHE RECALLS THAT that the four of them used to sing quartets in church together.

"Mark and I went to Europe together with the Southern Michigan Youth Chorus," she said.

Mark Smith, tenor, is now choir director and organist at St. Michael's Church, Chicago and is also a member of the Chicago Chamber Choir.

Miss Smith said, "My parents have been a real boost to both of us. They sacrificed a lot to give us our music."

And when she's not either working, teaching, performing or studying, it's

likely Miss Smith is doing her best to explain opera to some of her uninitiated friends.

A regular opera goer, she prides herself on the many converts she has made to that art form.

She isn't positive which weekends after this next she'll be singing at the Opera House Restaurant. She advises her friends to ask when she is going to appear when they call for reservations for a meal. The food is "excellent and moderately priced," she says.

Big Dipper hangs low on the northern horizon

By RAYMOND E. BULLOCK

The continued lack of bright planets in October evening skies shouldn't hinder skywatchers. With the arrival of cool, clear autumn weather, this month is an excellent time to become reacquainted with the stars.

One of the most familiar objects is the Big Dipper, low on the northern horizon. (If you are uncertain which direction is north, face the direction in which the sun has set. That's west, so north will be at your right shoulder.)

Face north and look for the three stars forming a bent handle and the four stars (to the right of the handle) in the bowl. Draw a line up from the two stars in the end of the bowl and you'll come to Polaris, also called the North Star.

Now, turn around so that you are facing south and look straight up. Just west of overhead are three bright stars — Vega, Altair and Deneb — that form the summer triangle. Although summer is over, these stars will be visible throughout November.

East of overhead is a gigantic square called Pegasus. Stretching to the northeast is a row of stars running through Andromeda to Perseus. These three constellations seem to form a huge dipper.

Rising in the east is the beautiful Pleiades star cluster, the shoulder of Taurus. His brilliant eye is Aldebaran. Have a look at some of these objects with binoculars. How many stars can you count in the Pleiades? What color is Aldebaran? Examine the star where the Big Dipper's handle bends — what do you see?

Although the Orionid meteor shower maximum occurs on Oct. 21, the moon, two days before full, will flood the sky with light. Don't despair, a better meteor shower is only two months away.

Since the constellation Andromeda is high in the sky, this is an excellent time to observe the Great Galaxy in Andromeda. The darker the night, the better the chances of spotting this fuzzy patch of light.

Should you find the Andromeda Galaxy to be an elusive object, a visit to the Cranbrook Institute of Science observatory any Saturday night will prove helpful. Observations through the six inch telescope are available from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. For information, call 645-3210.

The author is coordinator of the planetarium and observatory at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

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1976	OCTOBER	1976
Sun	Tues	Wed
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31		

1978	OCTOBER	1978
Sun	Mon	Tues
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4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31		

1979	OCTOBER	1979
Sun	Mon	Tues
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
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16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
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31		

1980	OCTOBER	1980
Sun	Mon	Tues
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
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