

## Hayman succeeds, Jones disappoints

By Jack Ryan  
special writer

With the flamboyant Richard Hayman conducting, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra gave the overflow crowd an evening of beautiful Broadway tunes Sunday night at Meadow Brook Music Festival.

Jack Jones, stylish vocalist of "Love Boat" fame, joined the orchestra for the opening concert of the Sunday Pops series. Unfortunately, he presented what was essentially a night club act instead of crooning the tender ballads the audience expected of him.

It was a simply gorgeous setting as a gentle breeze carried the show tunes through the pine trees at Meadow Brook in Baldwin Pavilion and on the hill at Oakland University near Rochester.

Hayman skillfully took the audience on a musical tour of Broadway, with the orchestra rendering selections from Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance," "What I Did for Love" from "A Chorus Line," and songs from "Annie," which seemed to be a great audience favorite.

HAYMAN CLOSED his portion of the show with two harmonica selections from his new album "Ruby." The first offering was a ballad titled "The Lonely Shepherd." He followed it up with his own composition "Ruby." The audience, mostly old fans of Hayman's,

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responded generously as he took his flambé bow.

Enter Jack Jones, looking trim and fit in a black tuxedo. Jones grabbed the audience at the start with several soft and romantic ballads but lost them just as fast when he stopped at the beginning of a song and asked to have the volume turned up on the stage.

Jones was at his best when he went down in the audience to sing his medley, which everyone seemed to enjoy quite a bit. He did such songs as the "Love Boat Theme," "Wives and Lovers," and "Lollipops and Roses."

At this point in the program he switched tempo and did several selections totally out of character for Jones, and his voice showed the strain. The crowd obviously had for the love ballads is noted for. Nonetheless, he received a polite response as he sang several Beatles and James Taylor songs.

Jones tried to get the audience back by singing "Chicago" and several other standards but the sound was a bit too loud for this crowd. Jones is a fine ballad singer, and that's what the people came to hear. What he gave them was his basic nightclub act and this was not a nightclub crowd.

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The Lettermen will perform in the second Friday night series concert at Meadow Brook.

The Four Freshmen share the bill with The Lettermen.

at Meadow Brook.

## Harmonizing keeps Lettermen together

By Jack Ryan  
special writer

Tony Butola, Gary Pike and Chad Nichols are not exactly household words, but their stage name is synonymous with excellence in listening pleasure. The trio is better known as The Lettermen.

None are the letter sweepers, and the hat is a little thinner, but the beautiful harmonies that were a trademark of the Lettermen are still evident.

The Lettermen will bring the

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group's hit songs and a few surprises to the Meadow Brook Music Festival on Friday night, Friday in Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University Campus near Rochester.

"We've just finished recording our 50th album and we're quite proud of that. When we started in the early

'60s we didn't think it would last this long," Tony Butola, the only original Lettermen, said in the group's dressing room during a recent Detroit engagement.

GARY PIKE added, "We still enjoy our work and the people seem to enjoy us, so we're booked about eight shows a year. Each of us has families and they're long enough to be away from them."

Chad Nichols, newest member of the group, seemed thrilled to be with the Lettermen. "The Let-

termen have stood for excellence in music for nearly 20 years. Their music will last forever. Who wouldn't be glad to be associated with an organization like this?"

If you ever danced to "The Way You Look Tonight," "When I Fall in Love" and "Shangri-La," you'll be glad to know that the Lettermen sound as good as ever.

Joining them on the Meadow Brook stage will be another pretty fair singing group, The Four Freshmen.

## Cherry County shows open in Traverse City

The Cherry County Playhouse in Traverse City has opened its 27th season of star system summer theater with Neil Simon's new play "I Ought to

Be in Pictures." Starring Gene Rayburn who is best known for his hosting of the popular game show "Match Game," the opening

production runs through July 12. Eva Gabor will appear in Noel Coward's funny and light-hearted "Blithe Spirit," July 14-19.

From July 21-26, Cathy Lee Crosby of TV's "That's Incredible" will appear in the uplifting comedy "Butterflies Are Free."

Richard Hayman conducted the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's opening Sunday Pops concert, presenting an exuberant program of Broadway show tunes.

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