

Largest harpsichord featured in concert

A concert at Orchestra Hall at 8 p.m. next Tuesday may be the only time the world's largest harpsichord will be heard in concert in this area.

Known as the Kasprowitz harpsichord after Ed Kasprowitz, the Detroit who built it from scratch, the instrument will be played by Bernard Katz in a concert with Evelyn Scheyer and The New Heritage String Quartet.

The harpsichord, which took six years to build, is 12 feet three inches long, made mostly of poplar and is painted black with gold trim.

"Everything," said Kasprowitz, "is handmade, even the keys and the 315 jacks."

The jacks, which pluck the strings, took more than a year to make. A separate sound board had to be constructed for the longest string, 10 1/2 feet, because its vibration affected all of those around it. Kasprowitz said that is the longest in an acoustical string instrument. In a normal size, large concert harpsichord, the longest string is six feet.

Kasprowitz said one of the reasons he built the instrument is because he was told it couldn't be done. It became a challenge.

"IT'S SO FITTING that the world's largest should have been built in Detroit," he said, "because John Challis who was building harpsichords in Detroit in the 30s was one of the people most responsible for the revival of interest in them."

The other person to whom he gave credit for the revival of interest is Wanda Landowska. Others interested in the harpsichord were Frank Hubbard and William Dowd, makers of harpsichord kits.

Now, Kasprowitz said, most major

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Cathy wins essay contest

Cathy Wetendorf, a student at Larkshire Elementary School, has won the top prize in the American History Month essay contest sponsored by Three Flags Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Each chapter of the DAR selected one winner in the contest open to fifth-through eighth-graders. Subject of the

essay was any famous American born in February in the observance of American History Month.

Cathy, who chose to write about Susan B. Anthony, will be a guest of honor when the chapter hosts these students named "Good Citizens" it will sponsor for the state "Good Citizen" award.

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