

Spring music scholarship applications available

Applications are out now for all students in grades seven through 12 who want to compete in Farmington Musicals' annual spring "Awards for Excellence in Music."

The competition this spring marks the 14th time the musicale offers cash awards for youth who wish to further their musical education. It is open to youth who attend Farmington Public Schools, parochial or private schools in the Farmington area, or live in the area but attend school elsewhere.

Though the applications have been distributed to the heads of all area music departments, "If we missed anyone, one will be sent on request," said Bev Notestein, chairwoman of the competition this year.

Mrs. Notestein will take calls at 478-1729, after 6 p.m.

The applications are to be completed and returned by midnight Thursday, April 1.

The competition will begin at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 29, in Harrison High School's music room.

"We expect between 50-60 participants this year," Mrs. Notestein said. "That number holds pretty steady from year to year."

CATEGORIES of competition will be in brass, percussion, woodwinds, piano, strings and voice.

There will be cash awards given in both junior and high school divisions. Voice competition, however, will be limited to high school students, only.

Money for the awards come from fund-raising activities sponsored by the

musical, but chiefly from its annual rummage sale.

Farmington Musicals is affiliated with National Federation of Music Clubs and aims to promote interest in and increase the standards of music.

The musicale encourages the youth in their musical studies with the awards program every spring.

The musical entertainment that is a part of regular monthly meetings, is always open to the public. The meetings are held in Farmington Hills Branch Library.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

When the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association held its music festival at Oakland Community College last month, Bev Notestein (seated) was piano accompanist for about 30 of the participating students. She's taking on that same job now for

young musicians who will be entering Farmington Musicals' "Awards for Excellence in Music" competition this spring. She is flanked by Tracy Balog and Carrie Balog on her left. And by Erin Berger, Army Orwig and Scott Orwig on her right.

Indoor garden is concert setting

If you are a gardener, or interested in gardening, you too are probably interested in all facets of it. I thoroughly enjoyed Brunch in a Garden with a Concert on Feb. 21. The affair was sponsored by the Southfield Cultural Arts Commission.

The location was the Prudential Town Center. In the lobby of the building, the developers have devoted at least an acre to a formal garden with at least 20 tall Ficus Benjaminia trees amid walks where there are mounds of ornamental green plants. There is also an irregular patio with a fine grade of tile for the flooring.

More than 300 persons had gathered for the brunch and concert, sitting in comfortable chairs at card tables with attractive tablecloths and carnation centerpieces. Franklin D'Antonio, of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a former student of Heifetz, performed solo with a violin made in 1779 by



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

Lorenzo Storioni. The violin had an ethereal tone.

THE ARTS COMMISSION will have its next concert March 21. If you enjoy music in a beautiful setting in mid-winter, make an early reservation.

I recently called on a retired engineer whose hobby is gardening. He was eager to show me the containers of seedlings he had started 10 days earlier in his basement. I will admit it is early, but he had a greenhouse to back up the next stage of higher growth. The important thing is the pleasure he re-

ceives from the care of the seedlings.

On a table, he has a fluorescent light hanging over several foil meat-moaf pans which he has poked with a nail for drainage. They are filled with sterilized mix you can get by the bag. Small seeds barely were covered. The surface was watered with a plastic sprinkling bottle. Each loaf pan was enclosed in a plastic bag while the total project was in a large plastic bag. He wants light to penetrate but not dry out the baby seedlings. The engineer admitted that all of the seed packets were from last year, and he is "testing," but intends to use the seedlings.

A WAY to test seeds in a hurry is to pour the contents of an envelope in a bowl of water and let them set for a few minutes. The good ones will sink to the bottom.

Seeds of poppies, cornflowers, larkspur and candytuft can be sown in March if the ground surface is not covered with snow. Use a rake and dibble the seeds in the rough and gently cover over and tap down.

Michigan State University reports that if you sterilize soil, which involves steam at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, it will destroy all organisms in the soil and create a biological vacuum. If you pasteurize the soil at 180 degrees for 30 minutes, you destroy all of the pathogens, but you leave a beneficial saprophytic population which helps inhibit harmful organisms. This is a good tip for commercial growers and also for the home gardener who sterilizes soil in the oven.

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