

Figaro And Friends Set For Visit In 'Overture'

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Michigan & Telegraph

Figaro, the irrepressible itinerant barber and maker of romantic intrigues, comes to Detroit next month bringing with him the lovely Rosina, noble Almaviva, scheming Doctor Bartolo and all the other characters who have made Gioacchino Rossini's "Barber of Seville" one of the



world's favorite operas for more than 150 years. But Figaro and his friends will sing and carry on in English for audiences largely composed of high school students and adults who may never have seen an opera before.

It's all part of the annual Overture to Opera, a unique Detroit cultural project. The 1970 program and schedule were announced today by Mrs. Ernest A. Jones of Bloomfield Hills, general chairman, and Dr. David DiChiera of Oakland University, general director.

THIS WILL BE the ninth season for Overture to Opera.



THOMAS PALMER as Figaro

'Kidnapped' Is Saturday Film

Great Stories in Film presents free movie classics for children on the first Saturday of each month at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The films are part of the Detroit Youth Theatre's "Something Every Saturday" series, presenting quality entertainment-live and film-for the city's youngsters. April 4 will see two showings of Robert Louis Stevenson's adventure story, "Kidnapped," starring James MacArthur and Peter Finch. Show times are 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Amusements

which was started in 1960 as a prelude to the annual Detroit visit of the Metropolitan Opera under the auspices of the Detroit Grand Opera Association.

In the intervening years, Overture has taken on its own identity and gained national acclaim as a program for stimulating interest in opera and offering professional performing opportunity to talented artists living in the Great Lakes area.

The 1970 Overture to Opera is jointly sponsored by the Detroit Grand Opera Association.

On April 3, in the War Memorial in Grosse Pointe; April 8, in the Detroit Institute of Arts; Tuesday, April 14, in Warren Woods High School in Warren; Thursday, April 16, in Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills; and Tuesday, April 21, in Midland.

Performances for students include are Wednesday, April 15, in Lahser High School, for students from schools in Wayne and western Oakland counties.

All performances are in English. The cast and directing staff include several outstanding artists from the international opera world brought in specifically for Overture and a number of talented artists from Michigan and nearby states. The performers will include Grayson Hirst, tenor who recently made his debut in Carnegie Hall; Rene Miville, baritone who has soloed with the Boston Pops and appeared in films and night clubs; Thomas Palmer, who has been soloist

with the Detroit Symphony and will sing the role of Figaro; Maria Ewing, Toledo soprano and winner of the 1970 Grinnell Award for vocalists; and Elsie Inesman, Eastman School of Music graduate and Detroit voice teacher.

Admission prices for adults range from \$2 for the Warren appearance to a top price seat of \$5 at the special art institute performance. Student prices range from 50 cents in Warren to \$1.50 at the Art Institute.

Performances for student

audiences are preceded and followed by discussion and question periods led by Dr. DiChiera, chairman of the music department at Oakland University, and an internationally known operatic scholar.

To prepare students for the opera performance and discussion, and to stimulate their interest, briefing sessions are held in advance at the high schools. These are conducted by the Women's Committee of the Grand Opera Association which has members in the Observer area.

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