

Ara Berberian to perform with Oakway Symphony

Metropolitan Opera basso Ara Berberian highlights a concert featuring the works of contemporary Armenian composers Hovhannes and Yehudiyan with the Oakway Symphony Orchestra at 3 p.m. Nov. 28 at Harrison High School on 12 Mile Road west of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Now in his fourth season at the Met, Berberian has performed with more than 60 American orchestras and has appeared in Russia, Germany, Israel and Canada. His performance will honor Armenian composers Alan Hovhannes and Yehudiyan celebrating their 70th and 65th anniversaries respectively.

Hovhannes and Yehudiyan are active composers who have produced a significant number of works over the span of their careers. Yehudiyan's career began in 1945 when his "Desolate City" was performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Eugene Ormandy.

He has written in a number of musical forms including solo, chamber and

concerts

chorale works as well as symphonies. One of his best known of the latter is the "Armenian Suite," among program items for the Nov. 28 concert.

ALTHOUGH BORN in the United States of Armenian parents and trained in Western musical idiom, Hovhannes was drawn to the culture, legends, philosophy, languages, art and music of the East. He found the Near East, Middle East and the Far East a bountiful source of inspiration. Most of his works had exotic subjects for his musical interpretations.

Specific works performed in the concert include Yehudiyan's "Chorale Prelude," "Armenian Suite" and "Laleazar," and Hovhannes' "Prayer of St. Gregory."

Guest conductor Dr. Harry Begian of the University of Illinois Music Department will conduct selections from Khachaturian's "Three Dances from Gayane."

Begian has served as director of bands at Michigan State University in Ann Arbor and at Wayne State University in Detroit. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State and later earned his doctorate at the University of Michigan.

Also featured in the afternoon program is flutist Pamela Hill, a principal with the symphony and a frequent performer with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Hill will accompany Berberian in "Laleazar."

Final featured performer in the program will be Francesco Di Biasi, Oakway Symphony's conductor and music director, performing Hovhannes' "Prayer of St. Gregory" on the trumpet.

Tickets at \$5 and \$3 for senior citizens and students, are available at Madonna College or Hammett Music in Livonia, Boltsford Inn in Farmington Hills and the Southfield Cultural Arts Division, or by calling Oakway Symphony Orchestra's office at 478-6544 or 522-7846.



STAFF PHOTO

Troy Players rehearse

Connie Patrick (left), John Lambert, Tim Gordan and Joyce Entekin rehearse a scene for the Troy Players production of the Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman comedy "You Can't Take It With You." Performances will be at 8 p.m. Fri-

day-Saturday and Nov. 12-13 at the Troy Community Center, Big Beaver Road at I-75. Tickets, at \$4 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens, are available at the door or by calling 879-1295.

Cinema adds film program

The Academy-Award-winning documentary "From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China" will be shown at 8 p.m. Nov. 11-12 in the Cranbrook Institute of Science auditorium, 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

The film is an added program on the Cranbrook P.M./Encore Cinema series.

A limited number of tickets at \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens are available at the door.

Included in the admission are the

film and its commentary, an open discussion and Oriental-style gourmet dessert with coffee served at 7:30 p.m. Discussion moderator will be Margaret Ayers Host, a five-time traveler to China.

Murray Lermer is director of "From Mao to Mozart," the first full-length film made by Americans in China since the cultural revolution. The documentary traces the historic visit to China by world-concert violinist Isaac Stern.

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