

Talent fosters need to share says star of Bucharest Opera

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

The Lyric Chamber Ensemble, Inc. scores a major coup this Sunday when it presents the leading baritone of the Bucharest Opera, Dan Iordachescu in a 7:30 p.m. recital at Birmingham Unitarian Church.

This came about because Iordachescu and series founder/artistic director, Fedora Horowitz, pianist, renewed an acquaintance that began when both were students at the music conservatory in Bucharest in the mid '50s.

He was given a rousing, standing ovation for his appearance with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra about a week ago and when he leaves Michigan he will perform in Washington, D.C., Caracas, Venezuela, then back to New

York City and home to Bucharest on Christmas Eve.

Prior to coming to this area he had given concerts and recitals in West Berlin, Paris, Rouen, Nottingham and London where he sang with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

IORDACHESCU said he's been keeping a busy schedule of this type for more than two decades — four months at home, eight months traveling from city to city around the world to give recitals as he will Sunday evening, to star in concerts with large orchestras or perform in fully-staged operas.

"Very few singers do both," he said. "In opera, the performance must be very strong and resonant for the voice to pass through the orchestra. The op-

era singer must also be a mimic, a good actor."

As he continued to make the comparison between operatic and recital performance, he said, "In a recital or a song, you have only three or four minutes in which you must convince the audience (of the emotion or feeling in the song). Gestures are more conservative in a recital, but in this genre, you are the master of yourself. In opera you depend on the orchestra, you depend on your partners, the staging, the lighting — you cannot say you are alone responsible for the performance."

To maintain such a rigorous schedule and to continue to be in good voice, he said he does a daily program of gymnastics adding, "I'm very careful of my health. It is not the happy part of being

an artist. I feel as though all the time the sword of Damocles is on my neck. A draft of cold air or dust will change the quality of my voice. And I don't smoke or drink."

HE HAS appeared in opera with Beverly Sills, Martina Arroyo, Montserrat Caballe, Mirella Freni, Shirley Verrett, Luciano Pavarotti, Giorgio Di Stefano, Mario del Monaco and many others.

He has sung under most of the major conductors, among them Riccardo Muti, Tullio Serafin, Erich Leinsdorf, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta and Sir John Pritchard.

Admittedly, the life of constant travel from one concert stage to another demands many sacrifices, most notably, being away from home and family for long periods of time, but, Iord-

achescu said it also has tremendous satisfactions.

He recalled that after the ovations in Windsor, "I was like euphoric, even drunk."

Recital reservations and tickets, \$7 and \$8 for students, are available by calling 357-1111, Birmingham Unitarian Church is at 651 Woodward, just north of Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

Comedy-thriller set

Two Farmington residents take lead roles in Plymouth Theatre Guild's production of "Deathtrap," Dec. 3-4 and 10-11 in Central Middle School, downtown Plymouth.

Ralph Rosati takes the role of Sidney

Bruhl and Gayann Brook the role of Helga Ten Dorp in Ira Levin's comedy-thriller. Brook is teacher at Harrison High School.

Ticket information may be obtained from Ann Schaffner, 453-7505.

5 decorated homes ready for DSO walk

A Christmas Walk, sponsored by the Detroit Symphony League will be held noon to 5 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday in the Birmingham/Bloomfield area.

A second tour will be held in Grosse Pointe, Dec. 12 and 13. The proceeds from both will benefit the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

There are five homes on the Birmingham/Bloomfield tour along with Christ Church Cranbrook.

They belong to: Mr. and Mrs. Marvin G. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Thom Chabowski, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Hatchett, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nine and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stein.

In style they range from traditional to very contemporary. The Hatchett home, for instance, is a tri-level, full of African art. It has an indoor pool, waterfall and tennis court and is featured in this month's Ebony magazine.

THE PAUL Nine home is filled with family mementos, portraits and paintings dating back two centuries including China-trade oriental rugs.

The Grabowski house is the only ranch on the tour. Thom Grabowski is with Bloomfield's Interior Design Studio, Northland. This home is a mix of contemporary American Cottage Victorian, French and English country with

oriental accents, along with many small treasures the Grabowskis have collected from around the world.

The contemporary home of the Michael Steins (she's Heidi of Heidi's Hair Salons), designed to accommodate both large and small groups of people, has a wonderful unobstructed view of lake and trees.

The home of the Marvin Alexanders (she's Toni DeBoard of Interiors by DeBoard) is an eclectic mix of contemporary and antique furnishings.

WHITE, accented by cocoa brown carpet, is dominant in several of the rooms. The holiday decorations, gar-

lands of greens with cocoa and navy bows, velvet wrapped topiary trees with navy and cocoa and white candles everywhere, will be in place for the visitors.

Geri Moore is general chairman of the Christmas Walk. Those working with her for the tour in this area are Joyce Byrnes and Marilyn Jakubowski. The organizers of the East Side tour are Sue Wegner and Jean Halat.

For ticket information for the Birmingham Bloomfield tour, call 644-8452 or 642-8585. Group rates are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door. Individual tickets are \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door.

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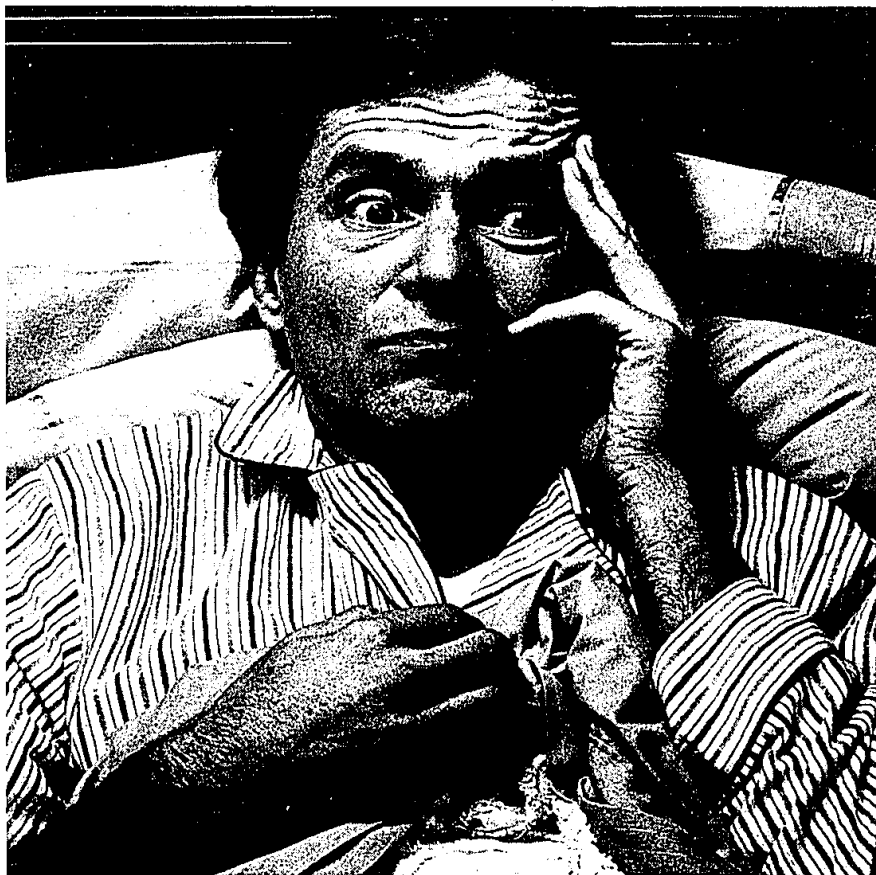
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