

# Great choral festival lives up to its name

Johnny Mann said there were no losers at last weekend's Great American Choral Festival at Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium.

"I have never before heard so many good choral groups in one competition," said Mann, who flew in from California for the state festival.

The auditorium was filled to capacity for the two-day event with spectators standing in the aisles. A seven-foot television screen was set up in the high school cafeteria. There more than 200 people, part of the overflow crowd, watched the on-stage activities.

Four grand prizes of \$1,000 each were awarded to the Wayne State University Men's Glee Club, the Interlochen Arts Academy group, the Mercaires from Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, and the Meadow Brook Estate from Oakland University, Rochester.

Medals were awarded to other choruses in eight categories. City of Plymouth Mayor Elton Mar-

tin gave Mann a key to the city and Mike Gross, director of the Plymouth Community Chorus, a plaque.

The Farmington Hills Sweet Adelines came in first in their category. The Battle Creek Boys Choir earned a first. Interlochen, Grand Blanc a cappella choir, and Livonia Franklin Bel Canto Choir came in one-two-three in the high school non-choreographed division.

Winners in the choreographed high school competition were the Mercaires, the Top 20 from Canton, Ohio, and the Milford High Vocal Ensemble.

Mann praised the planning that went into the festival and the clockwork precision as the 32 singing groups performed at 15-minute intervals.

The Friday evening concert which involved the Plymouth Symphony, the Plymouth chorus, and Judge Dunbar Davis, as narrator, was rounded off with performances by four area choirs. It marked the first standing ovation of the festival. There were more to come.

Johnny Mann's reaction could be described as ecstatic. He told his audience he had never before heard so many good choral groups in one competition.



GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

## Orchestra says thank you to city

As a grand finale to the Marathon '83 fund-raising campaign, Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Music Advisor Gary Bertini will present a "Thank You, Detroit" concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Ford Auditorium.

Prior to the concert, a Music Fair will be held on the Promenade level of the Westin Hotel in the Renaissance Center starting at noon. The fair, open to all "Thank You Detroit" concert ticket holders, will feature jazz, chamber, Dixieland, brass and other musical entertainment.

Tickets for this concert are \$50 for patrons, \$10, \$5 and \$3. The patron tickets include an invitation to a special "Marathon Wine-Down" afterward to be held at the RenCen Riverfront Ballroom immediately following the concert.

Maestro Bertini and the musicians are donating their services for this performance. The program will include the Overture to Bertini's opera, "Benvenuto Cellini," Suite No. 1 from Bizet's "Carmen," Symphonic Dances from Bernstein's "West Side Story" and Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

This weekend, Bertini and the orchestra will give three performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 3 in D minor. They will be at 8 p.m. this evening, 10:45 a.m. Friday and 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Guest soloist will be Jocelyne Tallon, French mezzo soprano in her first appearance with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra along with the women of the Kenneth Jewell Chorale and the boys and girls choirs of Christ Church, Grosse Pointe.

## Dinner dance to aid hospital

The sixth annual Friends of Providence Dinner Dance will pay tribute to the Daughters of Charity Heritage Year, commemorating 350 years since the religious community was founded by St. Vincent de Paul.

The April 23 event, chaired by Peggy Carroll of Bloomfield Hills and Howilla McGee of Orchard Lake, is scheduled

for the Westin Hotel in Detroit. Donation is \$300 per couple or \$1,250 for a table of 10. Eight Providence physicians will be honored for length of service at the hospital.

The event is co-sponsored by the hospital foundation and the medical staff research foundation. Proceeds support the work of the hospital.

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