

Husband and wife team create music for PBS 'Reading Rainbow'

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

The music children are hearing this summer on Channel 56's "Reading Rainbow" has all been written by Janet Weir and her husband Stephen Horelick.

The music stems from Patchworks, a New York City-based company which contracts for original words and music. Patchworks is owned and operated by Weir, who grew up in Farmington

and uses her maiden name in her profession, and Horelick, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa.

"The contract for Reading Rainbow was their biggest contract to date," said the musician's mother, Olga Weir. "And seeing LeVar Burton dance to their music most surely has been one of their biggest thrills since the beginning of their business."

Reading Rainbow is a 15-part series, hosted by Burton, based on the best children's literature available. It is de-

signed to encourage summer reading, and especially the beginning reader's interest in line books.

Each episode promotes literacy skills, tells how the library can be used as a resource, and includes the television adaptation of a children's book in a way that can best be described as "a field trip illustration."

The Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) presentation features 15 books. But topics introduced by those books are expanded in various ways to include a total of 87 titles, all of them chosen by an American Library Association advisory board.

MOST OF THE music and lyrics Patchwork created before receiving the PBS contract for Reading Rainbow had been for commercials.

Olga Weir mentioned "Beautiful skin by Ponds" and the Volkswagen's "Room" as two that would be most familiar to listeners in the Detroit area.

After Weir left Farmington High School in 1969, she attended Oakland University, University of Michigan, Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. and Juillard School of Music.

She met her husband, who plays the synthesizer, while she was playing piano in a band at an Aspen, Colo. resort.

"She figured as long as she was there she'd take a few lessons in electric piano. Then she married her teacher," Olga Weir said.

Horelick is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University and Juillard.

The husband and wife team collaborated on all of the songs for Reading Rainbow which are performed by guest stars on each segment. Weir wrote the program's theme song.

Consignment items now taken in Re-Runs

Establishment of a consignment service at Re-Runs, the non-profit resale shop benefiting mentally handicapped adults, was announced today by Mary Wagner, executive director of Community Living Centers, Inc.

The resale shop at 33316 Grand River will now accept items on a consignment basis with any profit going to Re-Runs for the support of Community Living Centers. This new service supplements the regular sale of donated articles such as clothes, appliances, dishes, sports equipment and the like.

The sponsoring organization is a private, non-profit corporation operating 10 group homes and a supervised apartment building in Oakland County.

Founded by Wagner, Community Living Centers is celebrating its 15th year of operation this September.

The proceeds from Re-Runs sales help defray the cost of maintenance and furniture replacements for the group homes. Re-Runs forwards all items that it can't sell to other charitable organizations, thus making certain that all donated items are put to good use.

Arrangements for making donations or consignments can be made by calling 471-4404 Tuesday through Saturday. All donations are tax deductible. Re-Runs is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

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