

# Concert band enthusiasts sing and whistle

By Marie Chesney  
staff writer

For some 300 Detroit Concert Band lovers, singing "la-la-la" was a breeze. It was on the whistles that they sort of faded out.

"You sound a little too confident," conductor Leonard B. Smith told his audience of volunteer singers during a rehearsal early Friday morning at the Redford Theatre. "Your pucker is not working. Remember, you're recording this for posterity. Use all the vigor and enthusiasm you can muster."

At the invitation of the band, the 300 had filed into the old Redford Theatre by 9:30 a.m. to participate in what Smith called an experience "unique in the annals of recording."

All week long, the band had been at the theater recording songs for its new album. On Friday, the singers were there to fill in some "la-la-la's" and whistles on three of the pieces.

THE FIRST 15 minutes were spent in practice runs. The next 15 minutes were spent singing.

"Fidget now, so you'll be quieter in your seats later," said Smith, adding that the recording cost \$20 a second and that repeats were costly. Recording with the band was set to begin promptly at 10 a.m.

While they fidgeted, the audience worried most about the whistling.

"It's kind of early in the morning for whistling," said Livonia resident Anna Marie Harte.

"I'm not too sure I can do it," said Kit Raymo of Redford Township.

"The hardest part will be the whistling," agreed Dorothy Hayman of Southfield. "It's not easy to pucker."

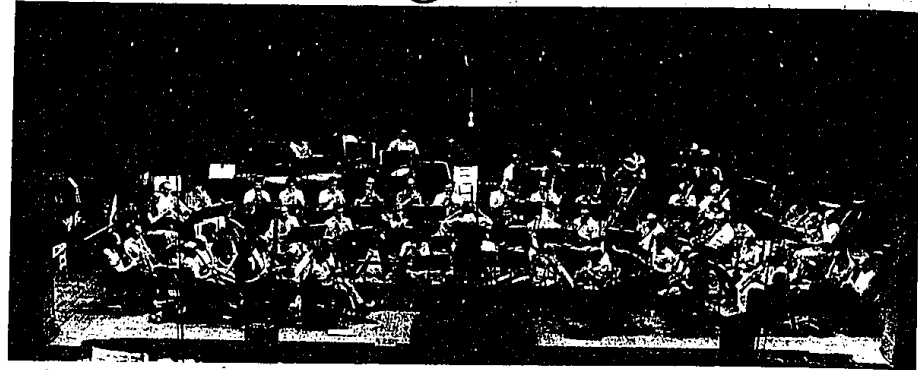
Sure enough, it was the whistles which had to be redone on the first song, "On the Mall." The "la-la-la's," Smith said, "were just perfect." But it was hard to keep lips puckered for more than one refrain.

The same was true for the second song, the "Roundtable March." The audience floated through the "la-la-la's" and once more fopped on the whistles. This brought retake number two.

IT WAS the band which needed some extra takes on "Pomp and Circumstance," the third song. They had to record the lead-in music three times. The song's refrain, first sung softly and then sung loudly and mightily, was just fine on the second take.

At least the audience thought so, until Smith told them, "We've had our rehearsal. Now it's time to sing louder." Smith ended the recording session with a gift and a request.

The gift was a certificate of partici-



The 90-piece Detroit Concert Band practiced, then made a recording at the Redford Theatre. Despite some preliminary setbacks, the session turned out to be a success for the musicians.

patation for each volunteer.

The request was to get out of the theater — and the parking lot — quickly.

"We're going to be recording some more, and we don't want to record the sounds of car engines," Smith told his rapidly exiting group of volunteers.

## Safety on the job is discussed

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The classes are part of a planned curriculum leading to an associate or bachelor's degree or may be taken for

professional development by persons responsible for enforcing OSHA codes. Other courses of interest to service professionals are in the areas of emergency medical technology, security ad-

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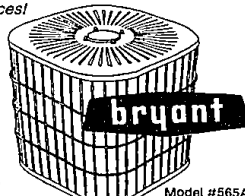
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