

Oktoberfest planner has lofty aim

By Tom Panszenhagen
staff writer

Rob Cortis has a lofty ambition. He wants to pack 5,000 people into the Maple Hill Concert Theatre in Whitmore Lake for Oktoberfest '93. "That's more people than saw the Beatles at the Hollywood Bowl," Cortis said.

With tickets at \$4 in advance and \$5 at the gate, Cortis' lofty ambition could result in a grand financial return. But his motives are far from selfish.

"All the proceeds will go to the American Diabetes Association," the 21-year-old Livonia said.

"My father is a diabetic, so I thought what better organization to help out than a disease that's affected the family and my father. The more people who attend, the more money that will go to the diabetes association."

Cortis, a student at Schoolcraft College and a member of the Gourmet Club there, operates the Cortis Catering and Sound Co.

"With the classes I've taken in the culinary arts program (at Schoolcraft), it comes naturally for me to serve food to people," Cortis said.

But Cortis will be serving much more than food at Oktoberfest '93, scheduled "rain or shine or snow" for Saturday, Oct. 1.

THERE WILL BE chicken and rib barbecues, corn roasts and other edibles, but the main attraction will be a host of '50s and '60s nostalgia bands.

Steve King and the Ditties out of Livonia, Moose and da Sharks from Troy, the Decades, comprised of members from Farmington Hills and Southfield, Tomorrow's Children from Livonia, and

Midnight Express will be dishing out "all oldies — popular, danceable songs," Cortis said.

And there will be a dance floor at the park, and a beer tent, and hot air balloon rides.

Cortis said he talked to people in the Whitmore Lake area and asked what sort of entertainment they would like to have.

"When I was younger we would go there and I know that when nighttime comes, there's nothing to do. In all the towns out there, people sit to 30 just sit around in parking lots and talk until the police chase them away."

"We talked to the people in the area and they said they liked oldies, so we'll give them a nostalgia review," Cortis said.

Gates open on Octoberfest '93 at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1. The bands will begin play at 2 p.m. Cortis said he expects the festivities to last until 11 p.m.

Tickets are available at CTC outlets and Col. Clicker's Cricket Club in Farmington Hills.

Whitmore Lake is west of the metro Detroit area. The concert theater is near 7 Mile and M-14. For more information, call 662-0983.



Dinah Lynch (left) and Rochester actress Mary Severson appear in MTT Productions' "The Shadow Box," opening Friday at the State Fair Theatre in Detroit.

upcoming things to do

● AT FOLK TOWN

Evo and Jimmy Bluestein, a brother duo, will appear in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at Folk Town coffeehouse at the north side of Southfield Civic Center at Civic Center Drive, just east of Evergreen Road. Admission is \$4.50.

● STAR SPANGLED

The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford will open its 30th season with the comedy "Star Spangled Girl" at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, at the TGLR Playhouse, 15138 Beech Daly Road, just south of Five Mile Road in Redford. Performances continue at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, and Friday-Saturday, Oct. 14-15 and 21-22. Lois Tobin of Westland directs, assisted by Rosemary Moorehead of Plymouth. The cast features Julie Rosati of Farmington as Sophie Rauschmeyer, John Hall of Wixom as Andy Hobart and Dan Zelazny of Livonia as Norman Cornell. Tickets for the Neil Simon comedy are \$5 and can be reserved by calling 525-8057.

● PIANO CONCERT

Dino Kartsonakis, Christian pianist, will present his seven-plate "Planorama," featuring world-renowned pianists, including three Miss America finalists, along with six specially chosen Detroit children, at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, at Ford Auditorium, Detroit. Six Detroit-area children, ages 7-10, will join him to play "The Sound of Music." Tickets are available at all CTC outlets, or phone 427-8729, 557-5885 or 224-1070.

● AUDITION TIME

Oakland Community College's Southeast Campus Theatre Association is inviting dancers, mimes and actors to audition for "The Nutcracker" from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, in the Royal Oak Campus Theatre (D-Building). No advance preparation is necessary. Performances of "The Nutcracker" will be the first weekend in December. Choreography will be by the Michigan Ballet Theatre. For additional information call 435-9423.

● STAGING 'CYRANO'

John Ulmer, artistic director of Florida's Asolo Theatre, will stage Edmond Rostand's comedy-romance "Cyrano de Bergerac," which opens Meadow Brook Theatre's 18th season at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. Subscriptions for the 1993-94 season may be reserved by calling the box office at 377-3300.

● COLLEGE CREDIT

"Vietnam: A Television History," to be shown on WTVS, Channel 36, will be a college credit course during the fall term at Madonna College in Livonia. The 13-week series begins at 9 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Oct. 4-5, and then on successive Tuesday evenings. For more information call 591-5188.

● 'STAR STRUCK'

"Superman" and "Star Wars" music themes will set a new laser show spectacle in motion beginning Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills. Shows are at 4:30 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays. Fee is \$1.25 in addition to regular museum admission of \$2.75 for adults, \$1.75 for students and senior citizens.

● SUNDAY CONCERTS

The Alex Kalleo Jazz Trio will perform in a free concert from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at Somerset Mall in Troy. Other concerts in the free Sunday series include Lowell Greer and Thomas D. Barna, classical horn and piano duo, Oct. 16; Alexander Zonjic Jazz Quartet, Oct. 23; and Susan Ivers Barna and Thomas D. Barna, classical flute and piano duo, Oct. 30.

● BENEFIT NIGHT

Marcel Delgrave with the New Detroit Jazz Ensemble and Bess Bonnier on the piano will play in a benefit concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29, at the Friends Auditorium in the Main Library, 5201 Woodward, Detroit. The concert is part of the Keep the Doors Open Campaign, which is working to raise \$1.1 million in order to stop the closing of 14 Detroit Public Library branches on Oct. 1. A wine and cheese afterward follows the concert. Tickets at \$10 may be purchased at the door or from the Friends of the Library Office in the Main Library. For more information call 833-4044.

● SEASON VIII

The Attic Theatre has opened Season VIII with "How I Got That Story" by Amilin Gray, continuing through Saturday, Oct. 29, in Detroit's Greektown. The 1993-94 season will continue with "Strider" by Mark Horovskiy, Nov. 4 through Dec. 17; "Awake and Sing" by Clifford Odets, Dec. 30 through Feb. 11; "Sea Marks" by Cardine McKay, Feb. 17 through March 31; "Lydie Breese" by John Guare, April 6 through May 19, and "True West" by Sam Shepard, May 25 through July 7. The season's final production, July 13 through Aug. 25, is to be announced. For ticket information