

# Chopin would have liked this one

By Avigdor Zarom  
special writer

Following a program by the Southfield Symphony Orchestra a week earlier, I had the opportunity to listen to another prominent community orchestra—the Rochester Symphony Orchestra. Besides the advantage of being close to home, this program had several other aspects to recommend it, even for ears that were being acoustically spoiled by the sound of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Conductor James Holmeyer has a talent for combining the profound and the popular into a meaningful event. The classical part consisted of works by Bach, Shostakovich and Chopin, with popular Christmas tunes by Anderson sprinkled in between.

TOWARD the end, the Good Times Quartet, a barbershop-style group of talented ladies was featured and the audience participated in enthusiastic singing of Christmas carols.

It was evident that the orchestra felt

## review

more at ease with the popular selections, exhibiting good tone quality and unabashed enthusiasm. In Anderson's Christmas Festival, the simplistic tune of "Jingle Bells" emerged with impressive, almost symphonic significance.

In the classical selections the musicians had their share of difficulties, to be sure, but there was no lack of rewarding moments. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 is one of the most demanding pieces for the harpichord, featuring a long and brilliant cadenza in its first movement.

Harpichordist David Butzu, a student of Mischa Kottler, was convincing and impressive. The lightning fast runs in the cadenza were well executed, with the exception of a couple of minor snags.

The other soloists, flutist Wendy Pardee, principal in her section, and concertmaster Alan Macnair, were equally impressive.

THE ROLE of the string orchestra was less than perfect, but acceptable. While there were some problems in terms of technique and intonation, stylistically they were on the right track, which is more that one could say about some more professional orchestras performing baroque compositions.

The one truly regrettable fact was that the second and third movements were left out, even though they are considerably shorter than the first, possibly Bach's longest.

Following a good rendition of the Festive Overture by Shostakovich, the high point in terms of performance quality was achieved with Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Minor.

This applies only to the piano part, which in Chopin's music is most important. The orchestral part, on the other hand, was the only aspect of the program that was truly terrible, and

that was one occasion in which one could feel grateful for the fact that Chopin gave the orchestra a very limited role in his concertos.

The true star of the evening was the Polish-born pianist Leszek Bartkiewicz, who has been gaining in prominence here in the last couple of years.

His technique was most secure, with the piano passages thundering with authority in the outer movement and eliciting an exquisite, expressive touch in the middle movement. That was Chopin with his true, authentic sparkle.

Bartkiewicz would have been a credit to any major symphony orchestra with this performance. It is hoped that someday he will achieve that opportunity—he truly deserves it.

This is not meant to downgrade the value of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra, however. Given the perspective, it is a fine enthusiastic community orchestra. It has been serving the community well for more than 20 years, and it is hoped that it will continue to do so for many years to come.

## club circuit

FARMINGTON HILLS PARKS AND RECREATION SENIOR ADULT CENTER hosts its New Year's Eve party that begins with music for dancing furnished by The Farmington Hills Senior Adult Band at 11 a.m. tomorrow in the seniors' meeting place in Mercy Center complex. Guests are asked to enter the complex through Gate 4 on 11 Mile, east of Middlebelt Road. There is no charge. Seniors are asked to bring a treat to contribute to the sweet table.

Exercises in the pool continue as scheduled at 11 a.m. and open swim is available as scheduled beginning at 2 p.m.

Reservations are now being taken for two trips in 1985; a two week stay in Hawaii, in February, and an Alpine Holiday in September. Pick-up brochures are available in the center.

MOONDUSTERS meet for a holiday party at 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29 in Livonia Activities Center, corner of Five Mile and Farmington Road. Admission is \$3.50, at the door, which includes dancing to a live band and refreshments.

The event is open to all singles over the age of 40 from all surrounding

communities.

INDOOR GARDENING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Metropolitan Detroit Chapter, meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2, in the Southfield home of the chapter president, Joe Uzell.

Uzell will head up the program for the evening, telling about the propagation and care of houseplants. He is a specialist in the areas of cacti and succulents. Members will also participate in a plant exchange.

Inquiries will be taken by Uzell, at 557-3167.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN HOBBY GREENHOUSE ASSOCIATION meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3 in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile Road.

Speaker for the evening is Walt Maurus. His topic is "Growing African Violets."

Members and guests are invited to bring their plant problems and questions for open discussion.

WOMEN OF NORTH FARMINGTON meet at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 11, in Room 404, J Building, Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College. The agenda for the day lists lunch, a silent auction, and a talk by psychologist Dorothy Sovereign. Her topic is "How to Turn All Your Negatives into Positives."

The event is open to guests, and reservations are necessary, to be made before Friday, Jan. 4, with Marion Prover, 471-4361 or Sandy Mills, 476-5280. Fee for the afternoon is \$10.

Those wishing to contribute to the auction are asked to call Arlene Suckamp, 851-4915.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 32303 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

## Felice-Frauenheim



Lisa Kay Frauenheim and John Vincent Felice were married in St. John Fisher Chapel, Rochester. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John G. Frauenheim of Farmington and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Felice of Mason, Mich.

The couple were attended by Linda Lincoln and Richard Romer.

The bride is a graduate of Farmington High School and Oakland University, and is employed with Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. The groom is a graduate of Oakland University and is continuing with graduate studies at University of Michigan while employed with Ford Motor Co.

The couple received guests in Addison Oaks before leaving on a trip to Palm Beach, Fla.

## Nedrow-Iversen

Kristy Ann Iversen and Brian Thomas Nedrow were married by Dr. Lawrence Chamberlain in First Presbyterian Church of Northville. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Per V. Iversen of Northville and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nedrow of Farmington Hills.

The bride wore a Victorian-styled gown fashioned with lace and seed pearl bodice, satin and lace sleeves and scalloped hem while she carried a cascade of silk flowers and ivy.

Susan McAllister served as matron of honor with bridesmaids Stacy Stuart and Julie Nedrow, all dressed in gowns of pink taffeta while carrying cascades of silk pink and burgundy roses.

Robert Tracy served as best man with ushers Christopher Lindberg, Steven Chupinsky, David Iversen and Douglas Iversen.

The bride is a graduate of Northville High School and Michigan Technological University, employed with Gehring Corp. in Farmington Hills. The groom is a graduate of North Farmington High School and Michigan Technological University, employed with Nedrow Refractories Co. in Walled Lake.

The couple received guests in Glen Oaks Golf Club before leaving on a trip to Nassau. They will make their home in Walled Lake.



# Health department urges steps against influenza

Influenza (flu) season will be here soon and Oakland County residents are urged to take this often epidemic disease seriously. Adults should take all steps necessary to protect themselves and family members. Vaccination (flu shot) remains the most commonly used method of preventing influenza.

The Oakland County Health Division continues to offer flu shots at its offices in Southfield and Pontiac. Because the elderly are prone to develop pneumonia along with the flu, it is recommended that they receive flu shots in the fall.

This year's vaccine protects against three viral strains, A/Chile, A/Philippines and B/USSR. There is a charge of \$2. However no one will be turned away because of inability to pay.

Flu is a viral infection of the nose, throat and lungs. It spreads quickly from one person to another, particularly in crowded places. Sneezes and coughs should be covered with tissue. If

tending a family member, those disposing of it in a paper bag that is frequently replaced.

Serving food and beverages in paper and plastic disposable plates and cups, used only once by one person and then discarded, can help reduce the risks of cross-infection.

Influenza infection produces such symptoms as fever, chills, headache, dry cough and aches in the back, legs and arms. Bed rest for the patient is important in the treatment of flu along with keeping warm and drinking plenty of fluids. If symptoms persist and illness is severe, consult your family physician.

Influenza is catching so be sure to take all steps necessary to protect fam-

ily members and any others who come into contact with the patient. With proper care, we can keep influenza to a minimum in our community this year.

For information on immunization, contact the health department in Southfield, 424-7000; in Pontiac, 658-1280.

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