

Chamber players welcome pianist

The next program of the Renaissance City Chamber Players "Romantic Gems" series will feature an evening of firsts. In addition to the first performance of a new arrangement of Schumann's Fairy Tales, Op. 113 by Renaissance Concerts' artistic director, Misha Rachlevsky, it will mark the first local appearance by the young American pianist, Constantine Orbellan and the first Michigan performance of the Trio in F Sharp by Arno Babadjanian.

The latter, a highly emotional work with a true ethnic flavor, was written by Babadjanian in 1952 after being told by medical authorities that he had only six months left to live. He did, however, live until 1984.

Along with the trio, Orbellan will perform Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1, which he will play this summer when he appears with Renaissance City Chamber Players in Finland. Barber's Adagio for Strings and the Canon in D by Pachelbel complete the program.

Concerts will be at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, at the First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor, and at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Orchestra Hall. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling 62-MUSIC ANYTIME. Major credit cards accepted.

Although still in his 20s, Orbellan has already

been heard in more than 200 concerts on three continents in the last three years. His concert activities include not only solo recitals and appearances with orchestras but also a busy schedule of chamber music concerts in collaboration with renowned musicians from all over the world.

He received his early training at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and, at the age of 11, made his debut as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony. Following the award of a government scholarship he furthered his studies in Moscow with Anaida Sumbatyan, teacher of Vladimir Ashkenazy, and then entered the Juilliard School of Music where he worked with Nadia Reisenberg and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees.

In 1981 Orbellan drew critical acclaim for his debut performance in France with the Chamber Orchestra of Budapest under the direction of Vladimir Spivakov. Since then he has appeared with the Chamber Orchestra of Prague, at the Bach Festival in California, the Newport Festival in Rhode Island, the San Antonio Festival and the Korsholm Festival in Finland.

Plans for this summer include performing with the Boston Pops Orchestra and appearing with the Renaissance City Chamber Players during their return engagement in Finland.



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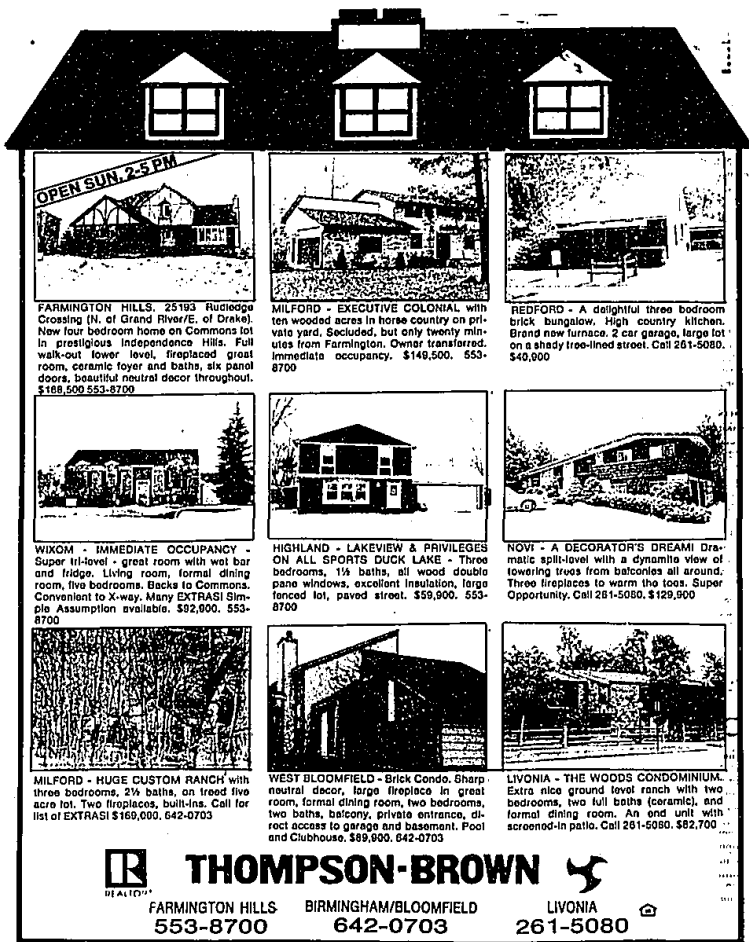
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