

# Liberace does a flashy show

By Manon Melgaard  
special writer

Clad in coronation robes, including the \$150,000 floor-length mink lined with rhinestones, the seemingly immortal Liberace courted a large, adoring, mostly middle-age-plus audience at Meadow Brook Music Festival last weekend with characteristic glitter and pizzazz.

With the famous piano-key smile, the unlined cherubic face, the thick mane of hair and the leprechaun whimsy, it is no mean feat (in these days of fleeting superstar fame) that the 66-year-old pianist/entertainer is still top of the glitz after 42 years in show biz.

Seated at the candelabra-lit, silver and mirrored piano, hands weighted down with gem-encrusted rings, Liberace played a repertoire that was pure memory lane.

His piano wizardry is undeniably dynamic. Attacking the keys with flamboyant gusto, he performed snatches of Gerahwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," interspersed with commercialized Chopin and nostalgic hits from the '40s and '50s like "Embraceable You," "Chicago" and "Chopsticks."

These were followed by a tribute to Eddy Duchin, a touch of boogie-woogie, and a sing-along including "You Made Me Love You" and "Roll Out the Barrel."

ONE HIGHLIGHT of the evening was a Liberace rendering of "Mack the Knife," in the varying styles that

## review

Mozart, Debussy and Johann Strauss might have composed it. This is sure to make music lovers happy, but purists don't set the tone at His Lib's shows.

Liberace no longer spouts homilies about his mom, and his jokes are slightly more risqué. They are still corny, of course, but he manages to pull them off with aplomb—which is more than could be said for the Jovers, a couple who appeared on the bill as fill-ins while Liberace was busy changing his unabashedly outrageous wardrobe.

Also on the bill was Erik Hamlin, a 14-year-old Liberace clone who played "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" in duet with the master. Hamlin, who acquitted himself well, has the same theatrical flourish as his mentor.

A fun evening. Even the sprinkling of teenagers present appeared impressed with the legendary "Mr. Showmanship."

Manon Melgaard, who lives in Birmingham, was born in England. She has been a freelance writer for 10 years, with a special interest in art and theater.

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## table talk

### IT'S BLOOMFIELD'S

Formerly Bedell's, the restaurant in Bloomfield Hills has been revamped into a smartly casual spot called Bloomfield's. Owner is Herb Schmidt, who also has the 22nd Merrill/Street restaurant in Birmingham, Main Street Seafood Bar and Grill in Rochester and the Schmid Haus in Warren.

One of the many interesting dishes on the luncheon menu at Bloomfield's is Baked Chicken Strudel (\$5.95). Schmidt's restaurants offer a varied selection of entrees but always include some German favorites. Wiener Schnitzel (\$9.95), Knackwurst with sauerkraut and potato pancakes (\$4.95) and Bratwurst with red cabbage and potato pancakes (\$4.95) are other luncheon favorites. The hamburger goes by the name of Alpineburger and comes with Swiss Cheese on a pumpernickel bun, plus fries (\$4.10). Among desserts are German Chocolate Cake Supreme and Apple Strudel with whipped cream or ice cream.

### SEAFOOD FEAST

The Haymarket restaurant in the Troy Hilton continues its popular "Friday Fresh Seafood Feast," with Maine lobsters, cold shrimp, oysters, clams, mussels, fettuccini alfredo, ribs, prime rib, salad bar and other offerings, 6-11 p.m. The buffet is \$27.95 per person.

### SERVE 'N' SING

Young singers and dancers from Phoenix Productions in Pontiac have

been trained to work as servers Thursday nights at the Piko Street Company Restaurant. The performers replace most of the regular serving staff Thursdays.

Shows, with song and coordinated steps, are presented at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. The performers also go on stage to do solos of famous show tunes. There's no additional charge for the entertainment.

### EVENING JAZZ

"Breezin' on the Boulevard," jazz with the Shoo-by-Doo Trio, is being offered 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at the Grand Cafe de Detroit at the Hotel St. Regis. Along with the cocktail-time music goes a menu of snacks and gourmet pizzas. The cafe also is open for continental breakfast and for luncheon with daily specials such as dill-poached salmon fillet and tortelloni primavera.

### EXECUTIVE CHEF

A new executive chef, Steven Peterson, has joined the Dearborn Inn. He will supervise the kitchen

and dining areas for all meals including the regular Sunday Brunch and Friday Seafood Fantasy Buffet. Peterson formerly worked for Lincoln Hotel Corp., the inn's new management company.

### Trapper's Alley

A Taste of India is the newest restaurant at Trapper's Alley in Detroit. The ethnic eatery specializes in marinated meat, poultry and fish skewered kebab-style and cooked in a clay tandoor oven. Indian rice, breads, vegetables and appetizers complete the menu. Other new food items at Trapper's Alley include the Health Bar with meatless health food sandwiches, I'm Chicken, with fried chicken, chicken nuggets and more chicken dishes, and the Broadway Bar, serving beer, wine and mixed drinks at cafe tables. Also new is the Country Classic Cinnamon Shoppe, with fresh-baked cinnamon buns.

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**SATURDAYS AT 11:00 AM • GATES OPEN AT 10:00 AM**

Tickets at Meadow Brook Music Festival Box Office or ticket services at Hudson's and all Ticket World outlets and AAA Branch Offices, (including Metro Detroit JCPenney stores) or Call 377-2010 for VISA, MasterCard, or American Express orders.

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### Breakfast buffet

The Ten Eyck Tavern at the Dearborn Inn features a Breakfast Buffet from 7-11:30 a.m. Saturdays-Sundays. The breakfast, being offered for the first time, is designed mainly for guests headed toward a day at Greenfield Village. Besides the buffet, there's on a la carte menu. Buffet is \$6.95 for adults, \$5 for children 8-12, no charge for children under 7.

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