

# Let there be light (opera)

## Group debuts with 'Barber of Seville'

UNDER THE baton of music director Felix Resnick, the Light Opera of Michigan will present Gioacchino Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," sung in English, at the Marquis Theatre in Northville this weekend.

Four performances are scheduled: 7:30 tonight; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Artistic director David Pulice announces the cast including soprano Brenda Anne Harris in the role of Rosina. Joining Harris will be baritone Lee E. Snook as Figaro; David Troiano singing the role of Count Almaviva; Braden Harris as Dr. Bartolo; Franco J. Bertacci as Don Basilio; and Detroit mezzo-soprano Clarissa Hughes singing Berta.

Light Opera of Michigan was founded by Pulice in early 1986. He received his music training at Michigan State University where he studied voice with Gene Greenwell and Lee Snook. Pulice also has a degree in architecture and design and has employed it numerous times to design his own sets, stage pieces and costumes.

Pulice has wielded the baton as music director and conductor for "Two by Two," "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and "L'il Abner" and acted as business manager and stage coordinator for "Company 5" — a five-person Broadway revue he helped organize and performed with for three years.

HIS EXPERIENCE as a director comes from several productions at Michigan Lyric Opera Co., the Opera House Dinner Theatre, Dearborn Civic Theatre and Dearborn Summer Repertory Theatre are among his credits. He was also assistant to the director for the Nederlander production of "Oliver" at the Birmingham Theater and acted as stand-by for Jack Carter, who starred in the production.

Resnick, who is also conductor of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony, will lead members of that orchestra for Light Opera of Michigan's first production as an opera company.

Resnick has been the Birmingham-West Bloomfield orchestra's conductor since its inception in 1975.

For many years assistant principal violinist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Resnick has also conducted that orchestra at Ford Auditorium, Meadow Brook Music Festival and on tour. He is also conductor of the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra.

Former Michigan resident, soprano Brenda Harris was the 1984 First Prize winner of the Oratorio Society of New York Competition and the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in Connecticut. In addition, she was recipient of a 1984 Lieberkranz Competition award and a grant from the U. M. Sullivan Foundation.

IN 1985, HARRIS sang both her first Violetta in "La Traviata" with the Oswego Opera Theatre and the Bronx Opera, and her first Countess in Strauss' "Capriccio" for the Lieberkranz Foundation — both to high critical acclaim. Her appearance in New York as Donna Anna in the Bronx Opera's "Don Giovanni" was praised as "impassioned and shining" by Peter G. Davis in New York magazine.

Singing the role of Figaro, Lee Snook has performed with numerous opera companies including Springfield Regional Opera, Opera Association of Michigan, Chicago Opera Theatre and the Lansing Opera Association. Currently assistant professor of voice, voice division coordinator, opera director at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., Snook has sung lead roles in "Gianni Schicchi," Figaro in "The Marriage of Figaro," Danilo in "The Merry Widow," Eisenstein in "Die Fledermaus" and Dr. Malatesta in "Pasquale."

He also has been soloist in Mahler's Symphony No. 8 and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. He is scheduled to appear with the North Arkansas Symphony in April as baritone soloist in the Brahms German Requiem.

Braden Harris studied at the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music where he performed roles as Sparafucile in Verdi's "Rigoletto," Thesens in Britten's opera "A Mid-

summer's Night Dream" and the priest in Mozart's "Magic Flute."

Former AIMS Competition winner David T. Troiano has appeared with the Michigan Opera Theatre, Piccolo Opera Company, Paganini Opera Chamber Company and the Ohio Light Opera Company. He has appeared in numerous productions at Margrove College, most recently singing Kaspas in "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

Distinguished as a brilliant performer and versatile musician, Franco J. Bertacci is in demand as an opera singer throughout the United States and Europe. He has sung with Teatro Verdi Opera Company in Italy, Mexico Opera, San Carlo Opera, Manhattan Opera, Florida Lyric Opera, Peterborough Festival in Cincinnati, Sarasota Opera and Civic Opera of Palm Beach.

Bertacci has performed numerous Verdi Operas, including "Aida," "Rigoletto," "Don Carlo" and "La Traviata." He has also sung roles in Puccini operas, including "La Boheme," "Butterfly" and "Tosca." He is a winner of the American Opera Auditions and a finalist in this season's Rosa Ponselle International Vocal Competition.

Tickets, priced at \$10, are available at the door or from the Marquis Stores, 135 E. Main, Northville. Orders can be charged on VISA, MasterCard or American Express by calling 349-8110 or 349-0868.



David Pulice  
'a stellar cast'

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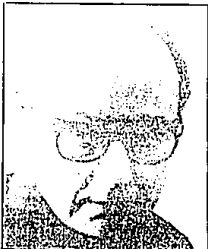


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Felix Resnick  
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Brenda Harris  
as Rosina



Franco Bertacci  
as Don Basilio



Braden Harris  
as Dr. Bartolo



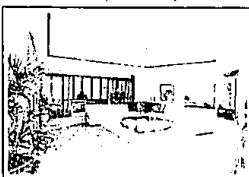
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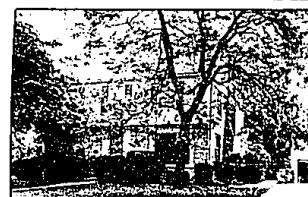


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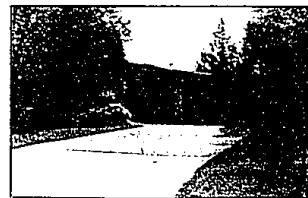
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