

Holiday card contest is off and running

WELL, FOLKS it's that time of year. You know, you visit relatives and eat. Take Mom and Dad out — to eat. You buy special holiday treats and sit around the fire and eat.

Of course, it's the perfect time of the year to get together with friends and... um... eat. Eat, eat, eat! And best of all you can hide your sins under bulky knit sweaters.

But wait, there is a way to break the routine. Try entering our annual Christmas Card Contest — back again this year by popular demand. Call it creative food for thought, if you will.

Prizes first through fourth will be awarded in two categories: Ages 10-14 and 15 to adult. A "special entry" award will be included. Now for the details:

● All artwork must be (or proportionate to) 4 1/2-by-5 1/2. No artwork should exceed 8 1/2-by-11.

● All artwork must be black ink



artifacts
David
Messing

on white board or paper. You may use technical pens, felt-tip pens, brush and ink, scratch board or textured screens.

In the event that the artist plans to use the card for personal use this year, it will be permissible to enter a photocopy of the printed version of the card for consideration.

● Only line shading, stipple or cross hatching will be eligible.

● The deadline is Monday, Dec. 15. All work must be sent or delivered to the Livonia Art Store & More, 16338 Middlebelt, by 8 p.m.

● All artwork must have a name, address and phone number.

● All artwork will be judged and ready for pickup on Thursday, Dec. 18. We will not be responsible for any artwork after Dec. 18.

● Artwork entered will be judged according to: thought, ability, originality and execution.

● You also may enter more than one design.

● No employees of the Art Store & More or families are eligible to enter.

Number one on the list is technical skill, which is, of course, relative to each age category. Detail and realism always has been, and probably always will be, what catches the critical eye of any judge. So try to use a fine pen point, tech pens, or felt tip. For 79 cents you can buy a felt tip with 0.3 tip, which is plenty fine.

If the artwork is larger than 4 1/2-by-5 1/2, we view the work through a reducing lens, which shows us how it may appear as a printed Christmas card. Speaking for myself, I first

look for good structure, proportion and then pickup of detail.

Subject matter is also very important. With a topic as broad as Christmas, you may enjoy a wide range of subjects or objects relating to the season.

Originality is a factor. For the sake of accuracy, we encourage you to use photos in the rendering of objects or animals, etc. But, likewise, we encourage you not to copy the design of any existing Christmas card or any artwork.

Cleanliness counts. So it is OK if you like to draw with a cheek full of Milk Duds, just keep your artwork clean.

Last year we had hundreds of entries and 15 shocked and surprised winners, so get with it and maybe you'll be one of this year's winners of the following prizes:

Special Entry Prize: Assortment of pastels and papers from Morilla, listing at \$50.

AGES 15 THRU ADULT:

FIRST PRIZE: Pioneer wood drafting table. This table is multipositionable and made of natural finished hardwood and has a 31-by-42 working surface. Retail at \$145. In addition, the first-place winner will receive a 100-watt drafting light listing at \$30 and their artwork will be printed into 25 Christmas cards and envelopes.

SECOND PRIZE: Graphic 3000 brush tip markers in 60 colors. This colorful set comes in a beautiful oak box and lists for \$130. The second place winner will also receive free framing of any picture up to 16-by-20.

THIRD PRIZE: Art Bin No. 8702 and brush holder, which lists for \$50.

FOURTH PRIZE: Battery operated erasing machine, which lists for \$50.

AGES 10-14 YRS.:

FIRST PRIZE: Wallace full-size economy drafting table, which lists for \$90. Also included is a drafting light, which lists for \$30; and free

Back by popular demand, the contest has a Monday, Dec. 15, deadline. There will also be a 'special entry' category.

printing of Christmas cards.

SECOND PRIZE: 72 Derwent Studio colored pencil set listing at \$47, and a portfolio, which lists at \$32.

THIRD PRIZE: Gift certificate at the Art Store & More.

FOURTH PRIZE: Bocour acrylic set listing at \$45; 12 studio size colors and extra large white complete with sturdy carrying case.

David Messing has been an art teacher for 10 years. He is the owner and operator of the Art Store & More in Livonia and Plymouth.



Basham 'brilliant' in Bruch concerto

By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

IT USED TO be that community symphonies held their concerts during low times on the weekends so as not to conflict with other activities. As these local groups though have become a highlight of each community's social life, concerts are now being given on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The 41-year-old Plymouth Symphony Orchestra is a group that is changing over and is now giving some Saturday evening concerts, the season's second of which was last weekend at Plymouth Salem High School auditorium.

The symphony's newly appointed music director-conductor, Leon Gregorian, brought in a brilliant violinist Glenn Basham to perform the exciting Bruch Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, No. 1, G minor Opus 26. Whoever listed the school violin concert of the 19th century overlooked this 1866 composition. It has tremendous appeal, especially the way Basham approached the music, with intensity, expression, and a pure sound.

review

BASHAM WON THE top prize in the 1986 National Young Artist Competition hosted by The Leaning Symphony. He was with the Detroit Symphony for two years under Antal Dorati. His playing is delicate and beautiful, and he reaches his audience with the emotional impact of his music, the vehicle here being the Bruch concerto, a perfect selection for this obviously very sensitive musician.

The second movement of this concerto was performed with a warm intent and tenderly, accompanied with an equally responsive orchestra.

Gregorian, currently director of the Michigan State University Orchestra, takes a no-nonsense approach and has developed more style and shading in the sound of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra since the last time the orchestra was heard by this reviewer. The result is

a more diversified interpretation of the music.

IT WAS APPARENT the orchestra had given as much careful attention to the entire program as they did for the Bruch concerto. Beethoven's popular Egmont Overture came to an exciting conclusion with a full sound of the orchestra. The symphony has a fairly strong violin section, although for this concert their concertmaster, Kevin McMahon, was absent.

The Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D Major was given a bright reading, especially at the end of the first movement. The orchestra is at its best when at full sound.

Excellent program notes were compiled by conductor Gregorian. For the next program book, he should include his own biography.

The Plymouth Symphony Society is employing some innovative ideas such as having their supporters show video tapes during the intermission for the education of the audience. The society is also sponsoring a musical series with some members of the Detroit Symphony in chamber music concerts.

The next concert of the season is Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13-14, with the Northern Ballet Theatre in Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet in Plymouth Salem High School. The Saturday performance is at 8 p.m. and Sunday's is at 2 p.m.

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Mary Jane Doerr is a freelance writer/reviewer residing in the Detroit area. For the past six years, she has been a music critic for the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers. She is a member of the national Music Critics Association Inc.

Chorale to perform

The Women's Choral of Wayne State University will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday in St. Aidan's Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, in Livonia. They will sing selections by Bach, Verdi and Dawson. The chorale's director is Dennis J. Tini. The assistant is LeVerna Lieberknecht. Accompanist is Martin Mandulbaum. Tickets will be available at the door. The public is invited. For more information, call 577-1785.



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