

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

Mischa Kottler, the guru of pianists and music lovers in this area, recently performed an all-Chopin recital at Meadow Brook Hall for the benefit of the American Artists Series.

The setting, in the former home of Matilda Wilson Dodge on the Oakland University campus, was an ideal atmosphere for the music of this

romantic composer. The grand piano, however, was far less suitable. Joann Freeman, founder and artistic director of this respected series, which starts its season at Cranbrook Kingswood School Auditorium Jan. 8, introduced her former teacher and guest and mentioned that the instrument wasn't of the quality either of them were accustomed to.

But a Kottler performance always has a special magic about it. The quality of his music making is from



Avigdor Zaromp

a bygone era. One of his teachers, Emil von Sauer, was a student of Liszt. That accounts for some of Kottler's stylistic authenticity. And his

more than half century of performing gives him an ability to surmount formidable barriers, one being the piano.

The harsh sound was apparent only during the first few phrases. Soon, the seductive sounds of Chopin's "Barcarole" took over and the singing quality of the music transcended the limitations of the instrument. The encompassing themes of the Sonata in B minor overshadowed all else. Other large-scale works, the Ballad in F minor and the Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise had many shining passages.

Few pianists, even those with astonishing technical skills, come close to finding as much beauty in this music as Kottler does.

The quality of the instrument may have been distracting to the artist. There were some technical slips and lapses, some of these may also have been caused by the angle of the lighting, which he found uncomfortable. But, despite these, one felt the rare miracle of spirit overcoming matter. Under no other hands could such a deficient instrument produce such refined music.

Kottler played several encores for the appreciative audience. The last of these, the Waltz in C sharp minor, is one he customarily uses as a sign-off. He has a special way of playing this seemingly simple piece, using an unusual sequence toward the end.



After the all-Chopin concert, Mischa Kottler took a moment to relax with benefit chairman Dee Heinzelring, left and Joann Freeman, American Artists Series, founder and artistic director.

Artists Series holds successful benefit

The American Artists Series first benefit at Meadow Brook Hall late last month has already generated enthusiasm for a second.

Mischa Kottler, pianist, played an all-Chopin piano program in a setting reminiscent of royal salons of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The whole event had a romantic air about it from the music itself to the ambience of the great hall where the cocktail reception was held after the concert to the elegantly served dinner in the Christopher Wren dining room.

About 100 people came for the black-tie-optional affair and warmly applauded Kottler and later series founder, artistic director and pianist, Joann Freeman, and benefit chairman, Dee Heinzelring.

The gracious chairman presented those who worked with her on

this first benefit, now destined to become an annual event, a long stem American beauty rose Evelyn Plotnik, Jo Kessler, Lois Anderson, Frances Watson, Marilyn Karabelnick, Gillian von Dreile (in absentia), Ned Heinzelring (her husband) and Freeman.

Kottler, too, received roses.

Freeman, a concert pianist, started the series more than 17 years ago. It has continued to attract audiences over the years because of her adventuresome programming of chamber music events, the quality of her core of instrumentalists — the American Artists Series Chamber Players — and the variety that she builds into each season.

For information on the series, 647-2230.

Musicale gives Christmas program

Birmingham Musicale will give a Christmas program at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 at the Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook at Woodward, Bloomfield Hills.

The program, "Orpheus: Song," offered by the Musicale as its season's gift to the public, will be followed by a special Christmas tea.

Daniel H. Olson, organist, will play selections by Handel, J.S. Bach, Mozart and others embracing the Orpheus theme, ending with the Toccata from Symphony No. 5 for Organ by C.M. Widor.

Olson is on the organ and piano faculty at Macomb Community College, is organist at St. Owen Catholic Church and is director of the Rochester Catholic Chorus.

Flutist Johanna Beth Bowers, a new member, is a 1985 graduate of Northwestern University. She will play "Meditation — Dance of the Blessed Spirits" from "Orpheus" by Christoph W. von Gluck and "La Flute du Pan" by Jules Mouquet.

Gail Mitchell, soprano, teaches voice at Macomb Community and Mercy colleges. She will sing Three Mystical Songs by Alec Rowley and will be accompanied by Fontaine Laing.

Concluding the program will be the Birmingham Musicale Choral Ensemble directed by Mary Pardee and accompanied by Eleanor Whelan.

Mary Johnson is chairman of the day and Jean Conway and Karen Mitchell are tea chairmen. For information, call Mary Pardee, 646-3093.

Orchestra, choirs plan holiday program

The Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra will give a Christmas concert at 2 p.m. Saturday at Southfield High School auditorium, 24675 Lahser, Southfield.

A choir composed of the Southfield High Madrigal Singers, the Schoolcraft College Community Choir and the Southfield-Lathrup High School Madrigal Singers will sing some unaccompanied pieces and then will be joined by the orchestra in works by Bach, Bennett and a medley of traditional holiday songs.

The concert will open with the orchestra playing Rimsky-Korsakov's Polonaise from the Christmas Eve Suite and close with selections from the Nutcracker Ballet.

Douglas Morrison will conduct the orchestra and David Jorlett is the choir director. Tickets are \$7 and \$5 for seniors and students under 18. For ticket information, call 644-9203.

GRAND OPENING

Farmington Glen

Ranches from \$144,900

Buy Now!
...at affordable prices

Farmington Glen is a new home community of quality built homes situated in the city of Farmington Hills, in an area of rolling terrain and natural beauty. Each home is given special attention to detail and luxury with custom features such as master suites on first floor, island kitchens and much more.

- ☐ Contemporary, Ranches, Colonials
- ☐ Park and Pond Commons Areas
- ☐ Various Floor Plans
- ☐ Your Lot or Ours

Sales Office 661-9210
Open Daily 1-6

Located N. of 13 Mile West off Highway 10

SINGH & SHAPIRO CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Burgess - Development

COMMIT YOURSELF

Be a volunteer.

American Red Cross

Who do you know?

Know someone who wants to deliver The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers? Call 591-0500 for route details

Lakefront Living... MINUTES AWAY — MILES APART

Situated on lovely Otter Lake, with direct access to Sylvan Lake, The Harbour offers you luxury living at its most unassuming. And its most affordable.

- Cathedral ceilings throughout
- Master bedroom suites
- Full with a spectacular view
- Private entrance
- Attached garage
- Over 2000 feet of private lake frontage

Starting at just \$49,900 the prices are as remarkable as the condominiums.

FURNISHED MODEL OPEN

Located on Cass Lake Rd. at Cass Elizabeth Lake Rd. Sales Office: 1027 Cass Lake Rd. 12 Noon to 3 P.M. Daily Except Thursdays or by Appointment Phone: 683-9900

HARBOURS

AN EBB TIDE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

ONLY 4 LEFT

VALLEY RIDGE

Single family homes with condominium conveniences IN ELEGANT RAMBLEWOOD

Features Include: Snow removal and lawn maintenance ■ Master Bath features Separate Tub & Shower ■ GE Oven with Microwave Upper & Self-Cleaning Lower ■ Deluxe GE Dishwasher ■ Wood Windows with Insulated Glass & Screens ■ Landscaping ■ Sprinkler System ■ Wood Pained Sectional Garage Doors ■ Genuine Wood Shale Roofs.

Price of \$185,500

VALLEY RIDGE IN RAMBLEWOOD

MODEL OPEN 1 PM TO 6 PM (CLOSED THURSDAYS)

CALL BILTMORE 661-2410

FOXCROFT OF BLOOMFIELD CONDOMINIUMS

With its unique style and panache that lights up the eyes of jaded condominium buyers, Foxcroft is fast becoming the talk of the town. It's little wonder. Since this exclusive halfway is surrounded by all the worldly luxuries that makes Bloomfield such a sought after address.

So come see these sprawling two- and three-bedroom residences that were built with care and attention rarely seen in this day and age.

Foxcroft is worth looking into today... especially since the secret is out! Priced from \$98,990.

INCLUDES:

- New self cleaning range and oven
- * First floor refrigerator
- * G.E. dishwasher
- * Carpeting
- * Clubhouse
- * Swimming pool

Foxcroft is tucked away behind the tall trees on the north side of Maple Road just west of Telegraph.

Model Open Daily and Weekends: 1 to 6 pm. 855-1066 (Model) or 296-7602 (Office)

Offered by Maers Realty and Michigan Realty Company

It's 6 p.m.... Do you know where Mom (or Dad) is?

HEATHERWOOD

FURNISHED MODELS

At The Heatherwood, rest assured that he or she will be enjoying an elegant dinner with friends in our Rosewood Room.

Introducing The Heatherwood... the innovative new rental community in Southfield that treats your parents the way they want to be treated. They'll love it, and you'll love the fact that The Heatherwood caters to the unique lifestyle of active seniors with 1 and 2 bedroom suites in a festive environment, featuring:

- Daily dining in our elegant Rosewood Room
- A complete personal fitness program • 24-hour monitored entry • Scheduled transportation services • Housekeeping services • Linen service • A full social program • Barbershop/beauty salon • 24-hour emergency alert system

Rents start at just **\$1,061** per month!

Call today for more information **350-1777**

22800 Civic Center Drive Southfield, Michigan 48034

the HEATHERWOOD
Prestigious Rental Suites for Active Seniors