

# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, March 26, 1987 O&E

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DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Cheryl Zeese (right) is one of the young actresses who alternates as Alice in the First Theatre Guild of Birmingham's production of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." Among many other young performers in the cast are Colleen Sullivan as the Dodo (left), Becky Roberts as Lory and Kate Warchewitz as Humpty-Dumpty.

## upcoming things to do

- KIDS' CONCERT**  
 Deborah Dunleavy, a children's recording artist from Canada, will appear in concert at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Birmingham Theatre. The concert is presented by Jabberwocky Toys & Books, a Birmingham children's store. Music for Dunleavy's new show, "Tick Tock Rock," is based on her second LP by the same name. The show is geared to 5-12-year-olds and includes numbers signed for the hearing impaired. Dunleavy's previous album was the best-selling "Jabberwocky." For tickets at \$5, call Jabberwocky at 642-0120.
- "ALICE'S ADVENTURES"**  
 The First Theatre Guild will present "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, March 27-28 and April 3-4, at Knox Auditorium at the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Adapted for the stage by Tim Kelly, the play is being produced by Kay LaForest of Southfield. The series of adventurous vignettes has a cast of 40 children and teens. Tickets at \$4 for adults, \$3 for children are available at the door or by calling 540-5943.
- MEADOW BROOK**  
 "Play It Again, Sam," a comedy humorist Woody Allen wrote for himself to star in, will open a four-week run at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 26, at the Meadow Brook Theatre. Performances run through Sunday, April 19. The play about a neurotic movie critic will star former De-Folter Bill Kux in the Woody Allen part. The character of Humphrey Bogart's ghost will be played by Robert Grossman. Also in the cast are James Anthony, Leslie Lynn Meeker and Bridget Cleary. For ticket information, call the box office at 377-3000.
- BIRMINGHAM POPPS**  
 The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony, conducted by Felix Remick, will present "An Evening of Pops" featuring selections from Broadway shows at 8 p.m. Friday, April 24, at the Birmingham Theatre. Singers from the Michigan Opera Theatre will be featured. The benefit performance of the "Birmingham Pops" kicks off the symphony's fund-raising projects for its 1987-88 season. Tickets are \$80 per person or \$100 for a Sponsor donation. Tickets are available by calling the symphony office at 643-7288 or by calling the Birmingham Theatre box office at 644-3533.
- TALLEY'S FOLLY**  
 St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook will present its spring production of the Pulitzer-prize-winning "Talley's Folly" at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, April 3-4 and 10-11, at the playhouse in Bloomfield Hills. The two-person play features Nancy Brassart as Sally Talley and Keith Lepard as Matt Friedman. For reservations, call 644-0527 anytime.
- BATES STREET**  
 The Urbanations, pop and rock 'n' roll band, will play at Bates Street Night Out from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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## Collector makes music with ethnic instruments

By Cathie Breidenbach  
special writer

**I**'M A SOUND explorer," said Jerry LeDuff, who collects and plays ethnic percussion instruments from all over the world.

He and his wife, Annette, live in Southfield, and are part owners of the Ajour Jewelry store on Woodward in Birmingham. For the last 20 years LeDuff has been collecting and playing instruments. He insists that music is too serious a part of his life to call it anything as lightweight as hobby.

By profession he's a visual artist with a master's in fine arts from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills. By avocation, he's an accomplished percussionist, who has played at the Montreux Jazz Festival and the Detroit Institute of Arts, in Young People's Concerts with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and with numerous performing groups.

The Detroit Percussive Arts Ensemble, which he founded, accompanies many local dance companies. The ensemble has created scores for documentary films, one for the Mexican Broadcasting Co. and another for the Canadian Broadcasting Co.

Currently, the ensemble is composing music for a dance choreographed by Harriet Berg.

**TO JERRY LEDUFF**, "Visual art and music are one. They're merely different ways to express the creative urge. And they use different vocabularies."

To demonstrate the articulate vocabulary of music, he uses sticks wrapped in raw rubber to beat complex rhythms on an African balophone, a wooden xylophone-like instrument with resonators made of gourds in graduated sizes. The gourds have been plugged with spider webs to create a more resonant sound.

Drums, shakers, bowed instruments, gongs, bells, temple blocks and marimbas round out his collection, which comes from Africa, South and Central America, India, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Middle East.

Rather than hopscotch around the world hunting ethnic instruments, the LeDuffs purchase instruments from dealers or from traders who come to Detroit and New York.

When they first began collecting, dealers didn't take them seriously, so they had business cards made saying they collected instruments.

**'In Africa, when people encounter something new, they touch it, smell it, then they hit it to see what sound it makes.'**

— Jerry LeDuff

Word got around. Now when a choice shipment comes in, the LeDuffs bear about it.

Prices on authentic ethnic instruments range from a few hundred dollars up to \$10,000, depending on the age, workmanship and tone quality of an instrument, and its rarity.

"THE INSTRUMENTS pay for themselves through lectures and performances," said LeDuff, who likes to demonstrate the unique sounds of his instruments.

"In Africa, when people encounter something new, they touch it, smell it, then they hit it to see what sound it makes," he said. "Sounds are an aspect of a physical property. I'm about using sound no matter what its origin — electronic, acoustic, vocal or kitchen pot."

His wife says he can't resist playing the showcases at the store.

The LeDuffs own several hundred ethnic instruments that he plays publicly.

"It would be no fun having the instruments and not showing them to people," he said. He plays with jazz and percussion ensembles in town and with Storytellers, a group that tours schools and colleges to present dramatic musical presentations using instruments from their collection.

The four-member group delights in mixing musical cultures. Storytellers often play steel drums from the Caribbean with a 'Tabla' from India and brass temple bells from Tibet.

As part of every presentation, they introduce the instruments and give background information about their origins. The group mixes folklore and music in programs designed to build cultural bridges. Performances have been given in Detroit and throughout Michigan, as well as in Ohio and Ontario. The Michigan Council for the Arts, the Detroit Arts Council and Omni Arts in Education help bring the non-profit group to schools and colleges.

Audiences are as intrigued by how ethnic instruments sound as by



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Jerry LeDuff demonstrates the African balophone, a xylophone-like instrument with resonators fashioned of different-sized gourds. LeDuff and his wife Annette have several hundred ethnic instruments in their collection and he plays them at concerts and school programs.

the variety of objects used to make them. Monkey skulls, seashells, gourds, animal skins and tortoise shells are just a few of the ingenious materials used to make the instruments.

**LEDUFF PREFERS** describing his instruments as "ethnic" rather than "primitive," which usually connotes simple or crude.

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