

Soprano excels in Met auditions

By Mary Jane Doerr
Staff writer

By the time mezzo-soprano Jayne Sleder left the stage at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions of the Great Lakes Region, at Marygrove College, there was little doubt that she had won. Many were already wondering if she could possibly bring Detroit a first place in the Great Lakes Regional Auditions in Toronto on Feb. 6.

Her "Letter" aria from Act III of Massenet's "Werther" was outstanding. The 29-year-old Michigan State graduate not only has an enormous voice, but one carefully cultivated into a dramatic and expressive instrument.

When she finished the judges asked her to sing the favorite "Habenera" from Bizet's "Carmen." "His-tonics are limited in an audition situation, but Sleder managed enough provocative spirit to let everyone know she was as much in command of the theatrical aspects of the aria as she was of the technical.

After the judges deliberated for 15 minutes, she was given the Walter Gehrke Memorial Award of \$1,200.

It wasn't that Sleder, now at Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, had little competition. It was tough.

Julia Brukhulina, a 31-year-old soprano from Ann Arbor, was asked to sing the extremely difficult "Silver" aria from "Ballad of Baby Doe" by Douglas Moore, after she had sung an exquisite aria from the lesser-known Mozart opera "Il re Pastore."

She was easily the winner of the

competition until Sleder, the last finalist, took the stage. Brukhulina won the Elizabeth Hodges Donovan Award of \$1,000.

A third-place finish and the \$1,000 Henry E. Wenger Memorial award went to 25-year-old tenor Paul Witsie of Livonia. His voice is clear and pure. However, under the tension of the competition, he had a tendency to be ardent on the upper notes in his two arias, one from Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore" and Ferrando's aria from Mozart's "Così Fan Tutte."

Witsie's sister, mezzo-soprano Barbara Youngerman of Royal Oak, who is on the voice faculty at Marygrove, placed second last year. Despite a fine performance of "Una voce poco fa" from Rossini's "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" and Cherubino's aria "Non so più," from Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro," she was edged out of the placing.

Honorable mention was given to talented 28-year-old tenor Gregory Broughton, whose singing was technically accurate in the Act I Rodolfo aria from Puccini's "La Bohème." His "Dies Illudis is bezaubernd schön" from Act I of Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte" was delightful. Apparently, Broughton has recently changed from a baritone to a tenor and shows a great deal of depth in his lovely voice.

The first three winners will sing in the Great Lakes Regional Auditions in Toronto on Feb. 6, against winners from Cleveland, Toronto, Montreal and western New York.

The winner of that competition will go to New York to compete with winners from all over the country, 12 of whom will be selected to sing



Mary Jane Doerr

at the Lincoln Center in April.

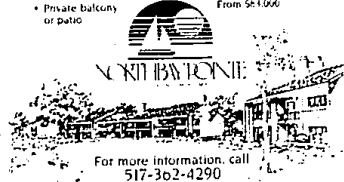
The competition was made more difficult for the contestants when the judges changed the format in the finals. After each singer had sung his choice of the arias, the judges selected a second aria for them to sing.

The judges were: Mija Novich, associate professor at Duquesne University; Lorenzo A. Malfatti, director of the Accademia Vocale di Lucca; and Edward L. Alley, assistant director of the American Opera Center at Juilliard.

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Designers visit city

Native American jewelry artist Elizabeth Charveze Caplinger and her father, Ted Charveze, a goldsmith/jewelry designer, will be at The Stone Flower in Birmingham 5-9 p.m. Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Stone Flower is at 580 North Woodward in Birmingham.

The first Native American to graduate as a gemologist, Ted Charveze is a trailblazer among the new wave of Indian artists. His contemporary designs have a continental look, bridging Egyptian and European. He always creates a feeling of the Indian art of the Southwest, linking the sophistication of new modern

designs to old traditional ways. He enters his designs in international shows, Diamonds Today, DeBeers and InterGold. He negotiates contracts with Paris-based Cartier and designs pieces for Australian jeweler Percy Marks and Imperial Enterprises of Japan.

Elizabeth Charveze began working with her father at an early age. She enrolled in the Gemology Institute of America, following her father's footsteps. She now works with silver, gold, all precious and semi-precious stones and diamonds. She has exhibitions in six galleries across the United States.

Hosting art competition

The Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College is accepting entries for its Sixth Annual Helen L. DeRoy Purchase Prize Art Competition.

Residents of Oakland County, as well as current and former OCC students, are eligible.

A first prize of \$750, a second prize of \$500 and three \$200 third prizes will be presented. Awards are made possible by the DeRoy Foundation, founded by Helen L. DeRoy in 1946.

The first- and second-place entries will become part of the college's permanent art collection at the Orchard Ridge Campus.

Artists who participate in the juried show may submit up to three works; entry fee is \$12. Entries must be submitted between noon and 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, at the Smith Theatre.

Prizes will be awarded at an opening reception at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13. Artwork will be on display in the Smith Theatre Gallery through Dec. 2.

For information about the competition, call the Orchard Ridge Campus Art Department at 471-7796 and 471-7792, or the Smith Theatre at 471-7700.

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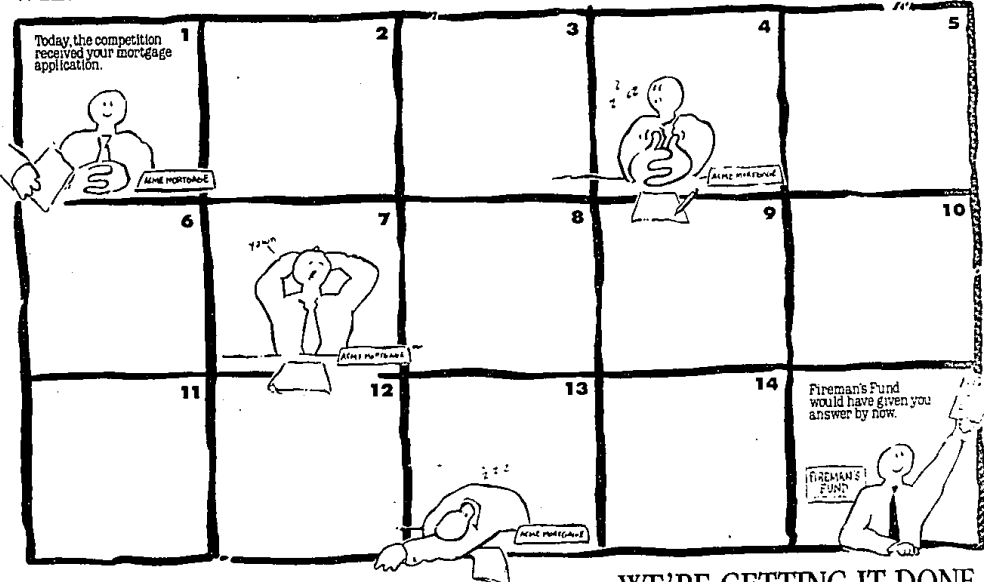
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