

briefly speaking

• MADONNA EXHIBIT

A fine art and commercial art exhibit by G. Paryand will be on display at Madonna College, Livonia, Sunday, Dec. 20 through Monday, Jan. 18 in the Exhibit Gallery in the library wing. The event is open to the public free of charge. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 591-7548.

• CHRISTMAS AT FAIR LANE

A full range of holiday activities including Christmas dinners, floral guided tours, Santa's workshop, luncheon concerts, breakfast with Santa, gift shop and post-Christmas tours are available at the Henry Ford Estate-Fair Lane in Dearborn. For information, call 593-5599.

• DICKENS FESTIVAL

Historic Holly will present its 14th

annual Dickens Festival. The event calls for authentically dressed Dickens characters strolling through the town and shops, including Scrooge, Tiny Tim and Marley's Ghost. Shopkeepers in full Victorian costumes, strolling musicians, carolers, jugglers, food vendors hawking their wares of roasted chestnuts, baked potatoes, meat pies and wassail are others who will add to the special atmosphere.

Other characters will be the town crier, who will be announcing special events and passing out gift certificates; Father Christmas; and "Put-Pockets" who will be putting little gifts in people's pockets. Hours for the festival are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 634-3501 or 634-7711.

• HISTORIC HOME TOUR

A guided tour of five homes in the

Boston-Edison Historic District, one mile north of the New Center area in Detroit, will be held Sunday, Dec. 20. This combination walking and bus tour will take participants back to the turn of the century to view the fine exterior and interior residential architecture of the early 1900s. Resident tour guides will accompany groups throughout, providing interesting histories of the five homes, which will be decorated for the holidays.

Guided tours will begin every 30 minutes from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with shuttle bus departures from Sacred Heart Seminary, on Chicago Boulevard at Linwood Avenue.

Following the tours, residents of the Boston-Edison will serve complimentary refreshments in the Bishop Gallagher Room of Sacred Heart Seminary. Tickets are \$9 per person

and must be bought in advance. Send checks made payable to Historic Boston-Edison Association along with name, address and the time you would prefer to take the tour to: Historic Boston-Edison Home Tour, P.O. Box 96668, Detroit 48206. For more information, call 358-4590.

• YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Auditions will be held at Madonna College, Livonia on Jan. 16-17 for the 1988 Young Artist Competition sponsored by Oakway Symphony. Competition includes all instrumental, piano and vocal students. To compete, instrumental and piano students must not have reached the age of 25 years before Feb. 28, 1988, with vocal students, they must not have reached the age of 30 before the same date.

To obtain rules of competition and

application forms, write to Oakway Symphony, 18549 Levan Road, Livonia 48152 or call 471-7049. Application deadline is Dec. 31.

• ANTIQUE/ CONTEMPORARY PRINT EXHIBITION/SALE

Henry Ford Community College, in conjunction with Lakeside Galleries, will hold an antique and contemporary print exhibition and sale through Friday, Dec. 18 in the Sissag Art Gallery, on the campus of the college, 5101 Evergreen Road.

Lakeside is a nationally known studio and print dealer who offers its collections of American, European and Asian prints for viewing and sale. Images executed in intaglio, relief, lithography and silkscreen will represent a cross section of printmaking from the 20th century and before.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 6-8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information, call Martin Anderson, guest curator, 845-9834, Ext. 468.

• "TRANSFORMING VISIONS" ART SHOW

"Transforming Visions" is the theme of the juried art show at the Swords into Plowshares Peace Center & Art Gallery, 45 E. Adams, on Grand Circus Park. An official sequel to the 1986 event, the competition attracted more than 90 Michigan artists who created two- and three-dimensional works expressing the imperative of moving from a world of war and violence to a world of peace and reconciliation.

There is no admission charge and plenty of close-by street parking as well as a guarded lot behind the Central United Methodist Church. For more information, call 965-5422.

Renaissance quintet makes listening easy

By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

The most charming of all chamber music is definitely the literature for the woodwind quintet. It is light, airy and energetic.

The Renaissance Woodwind Quintet proved that recently as they presented three of the most famous pieces in the repertoire in a delightful program at the Farmington Community Center. Woodwind quintet music is a favorite of this critic and the Renaissance Woodwind Quintet captured the element that makes the music so captivating — fast paced, rapidly changing rhythms.

For an hour, the five members of the Detroit Symphony entertained in the living room of the center seated on elegant Williamsburg chairs surrounded by Christmas decorations.

The woodwind quintet, a combination of five instruments (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and horn), is a combination that has come rather recently in musical history. But the enchanting sound of a group such as the Renaissance Woodwind Quintet is one reason why the music is so attractive.

CLARINETIST DOUGLAS Cornelsen narrated the program, which consisted of an arrangement for woodwind quintet of Haydn's Divertimento No. 1 in B-Flat, Five Hungarian Folk Songs and Sea Chanteys. Of course, Franz Joseph Haydn did not compose his Divertimento for a woodwind quintet since the clarinet had not been developed to its present form. Probably the work was composed for violins, horns and bassoons. It does translate though nicely for flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and French horn. According to flutist Shaul Ben-Meir, this particular arrangement was done by a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

It contains the lovely St. Anthony Choral in the second movement. The short 10-minute piece is classical and enhanced the program with early music offsetting the predominantly more modern woodwind quintet repertoire.

The Renaissance Woodwind Quintet consists of flutist Shaul Ben-Meir, clarinetist Douglas Cornelsen, oboist Shelley Heron, bassoonist Paul Ganson and hornist Corbin Wagner. Their sound as a chamber group is

review

one of unity, clarity and an easy-to-listen-to sound that reflects both the personality of the players as well as the music itself.

Woodwind quintet music is bright and fun, an attribute reflected in their rendition of the British composer Malcolm Arnold's 1952 composition Sea Chanteys for Wind Quintet. The piece has a contemporary sound but a swing in the changing rhythms that make it appealing. The Kingston Trio hit "Early in the Morning" is only one of the fishing melodies used by Arnold. More striking is the way Arnold features each instrument.

ALTHOUGH BARTOK is famous for his collection of Hungarian folk tunes, the Five Hungarian Folk Songs performed by the Renaissance

Woodwind Quintet were composed by Ferik Furkas. Easily this work is one of the most distinctive pieces for woodwind quintet. This critic has heard it often performed and found this performance very pronounced and punctuated. The harmony blend in the second movement is especially invoking although it was the last movement rhythm that made it especially alluring to the audience.

In the spirit of the season, the concert ended with Schifman's contrapuntal arrangement of Christmas carols. From each of the five instruments a Christmas melody is heard, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" predominated in harmony with "The First Noel," "Oh Christmas Tree," and ending with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

In settings such as the Farmington Community Center, chamber music is certainly at its best. The Renaissance Woodwind Quintet was also at its best, taking full advantage of the small intimate setting to make their music even more enjoyable.

'Their sound as a chamber group is one of unity, clarity and an easy-to-listen-to sound that reflects both the personality of the players as well as the music itself.'

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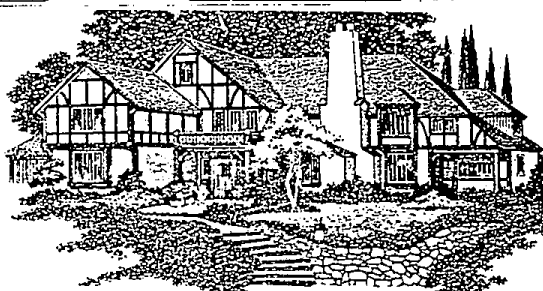
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