

Lafayette Quartet scores a hit

By Avigdor Zoromp
special writer

Once again we are in the midst of a busy musical season. Even classical music lovers may have to forego some events since there is a limit to the stimulation that the ears can handle in a short span of time.

In order to evoke interest under such circumstances, both music and musicians have to be quite outstanding. The Sunday program of the Lafayette String Quartet at Varner Hall, Oakland University, turned out to have those rare qualifications.

The Quartet, formed in 1986, is now the String Quartet in Residence at Oakland University. Its members are violinists Ann Elliott and Sharon Stanis, violist Joanna Hood and cellist Pamela Highbaugh.

The program itself was most appealing in spite of the fact that I had been attending musical events for two days. It consisted of a Mozart string quartet, the Quartet in C Minor by Debussy and the Quintet for Clarinet and Strings by Brahms. For the latter, the group was joined by clarinet player David Shifrin.

THE LAFAYETTE has improved in technical skill, intonation and overall balance and coordination since the last time I heard them. The weakest point on this otherwise excellent program was in Mozart's Quartet K. 589 in B Flat Major. The drawback was primarily stylistic. While too frequently Mozart's music is presented as benign and emulated, the performance on this occasion went overboard in the other direction.

Frequently passages sounded forced and the texture was too thick for Mozart's style. All too often, it sounded

like 19th century music — which is at its best only when written by 19th century masters.

Instead of the themes floating freely over the more subtle background, they were struggling to overcome the subordinate accompaniment. A more restrained dynamic range with emphasis on clarity would have enhanced this work tremendously.

The Debussy quartet was far better matched stylistically, after a somewhat tense beginning. The delicate second movement with its pizzicato passages was impressive. It was followed by an unusually long tuning session, but if that was the only way to achieve the enchanting effect of the final two movements then it was a worthy investment.

THE BRAHMS quintet was one of the most rewarding musical experiences this week. It is one of four works written by Brahms for his friend Muehlfeld, who was a top clarinetist at that time. The

performance captured the introverted serenity of this work, which seems to view the past accomplishments as if one were on a summit.

It was a restrained performance, but of the kind that didn't hinder the subtle, internal flow of the music. Shifrin appears frequently with major chamber groups. This performance made the reason for his popularity abundantly clear.

Brahms' clarinet quintet signifies the summit of his life and his music. With this performance, the Lafayette String Quartet took a few more steps toward

the summit of chamber music, where the best groups reside.

the summit of chamber music, where the best groups reside.

Glass on exhibit

Emily Brock is one of three glass artists whose work is on display at Habatat Galleries, 28225 Southfield, Lathrup Village. The others are Jack Schmidt and Michael Pavik. Brock's work shown is "The Birthday Party." Her theme is "Celebration and Parties" and she documents the office party and a coffee break as well. Reception for the artists is at 8 p.m. Saturday.

GET OUT OF THE DARK.



Open your eyes and see just how many subjects are covered in the new edition of the Consumer Information Catalog. It's here just for the asking and so are nearly half of the 200 federal publications described inside. Booklets on subjects like financial and career planning, eating right, exercising, and staying healthy, housing and child care, federal benefit programs. Just about everything you would need to know. Write today.

Consumer Information Center
Department TD, Pueblo, Colorado 81009

PRE CONSTRUCTION

SPECIAL

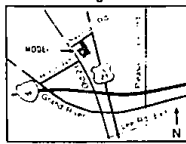
FEBRUARY ONLY!

We will pay up to **\$1500** toward closing cost and will hold to our 1987 prices! This special applies only to our 3 subdivisions in Brighton

FROM **\$86,200**

INCLUDES: 1/2 acre lot, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, basement and 2 car garage.

Brighton



MODEL OPEN 12-6

Model Closed Tues. & Thur

Office 229-5722

Model 229-6559

SOME MODELS

60 DAY OCCUPANCY

Adler

719 E. Grand River, Brighton 48116

A MEMBER OF THE
SEARS FINANCIAL NETWORK
COLDWELL BANKER

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR YOUR LISTING BACK.

Others may claim to satisfy your home-selling needs, but at Coldwell Banker we'll guarantee it! We have full confidence that we are doing our very best to serve you. You have our word on it! Satisfaction guaranteed or your listing back. Call for details.



SHARPI
2 bedroom ranch with basement and garage. Beautifully decorated with a contemporary flair. 1st floor laundry, lots of storage. Nice deck. Good location.
Only \$124,900 737-9000



ALDINGBROOK CONDO
Elegant 2 story detached Bromley Model offers dramatic 2 story great room, neutral decor, custom drapes, open floor plan and walmantized deck.
\$244,900 737-9000



BEAUTIFUL
Condo with all neutral decor. Large open basement. Open park-like area. Only four years old. 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths.
\$87,500 737-9000



SPECIAL
Williams Lake access on this 2 bedroom home at a price you can afford for the Handy Andy with a screw driver and a paint brush. Ideal for summer home. Don't wait - you could be late.
\$51,900 737-9000



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4
6480 Tanglewood, Troy
N. of Square Lake, W. of Coolidge
CHARNWOOD HILLS ELEGANCE
In this stunning tudor with 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Large kitchen with work island and decks off breakfast nook. French doors open into the oak paneled library. Immediate occupancy. 24337
\$299,900 642-2400



DELIGHTFUL AND GRACIOUS LIVING
Newly renovated contemporary located in the heart of Birmingham. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, neutral decor, central air. Multi-level patio deck in rear. Many other features. 24528
\$239,000 642-2400



SHARP IN-TOWN POPPLETON PARK AREA
Brick 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath colonial, updated kitchen, family room, library, formal dining room, brick patio, quiet private yard, newer furnace, central air, all appliances. 24538
\$215,000 642-2400



JUST ARRIVED!
Sharp 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath colonial with fireplace in family room, updated kitchen is bright and cheery. Ready to move into. 29609
\$72,500 642-2400

642-2400 BIRMINGHAM
770 Forest

737-9000 WEST BLOOMFIELD
33030 Northwestern

15 offices to serve you
...with more to come!

* ANY ARBOR • BIRMINGHAM OFFICE • BRIARWOOD MALL • LAKESIDE MALL • LEVONIA OFFICE
* LEVONIA MALL • MACOM MALL • PLYMOUTH OFFICE • PLYMOUTH NORTHVILLE OFFICE
* NORTHEAST OFFICE • TROY OFFICE • TWELVE OAKS MALL
* WEST BLOOMFIELD OFFICE • YPSILANTI

A MEMBER OF THE
SEARS FINANCIAL NETWORK
COLDWELL BANKER
REAL ESTATE

Simsbury

The charm of yesteryear, the elegance of tomorrow

SIMSBURY
CONDOMINIUM
COMMUNITY
Elegantly furnished
Condominium Models
from \$134,900.00

Located on Fourteen Mile
Road, 3 1/2 Miles West of
Orchard Lake Road.

Open now to 8 PM. every
day, closed Thursday.

Main office 626-3500
Sales Center 851-3500

