

'La Boheme' will tour Michigan



By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

Michigan Opera Theatre's community programs department has taken a giant step forward.

The department opened its 1988 theater-in-residence state tour Saturday with a performance of "La Boheme" with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra at Cleary Auditorium of Windsor.

The production, with full orchestra and full staging, was a major undertaking.

Usually the department, under the direction of Karen DeChiera, uses a piano or small ensemble that can be assembled in four cities such as St. Clair Shores, Cheboygan or South Haven. This production, sung in English, is being performed throughout the state in anticipation of MOT's mainstage production of "La Boheme" in late May.

This is the second collaboration between MOT and the Windsor Symphony in as many months. Last month, "Hansel and Gretel" met

with keen local interest and full houses.

The Windsor Symphony, despite its current financial difficulties, is equipped to perform the Puccini score with competence.

Conductor Dwight Bennett conferred with MOT's David DeChiera by telephone in California before the Saturday performance. In conducting, he showed an understanding of the Puccini music and a sensitivity for the singers. The orchestra's mellow, string-dominated quality is preferable to the harsh, gutsy quality of many American orchestras to these ears.

None of the singers in this production had ever sung "La Boheme" before, but there is promising talent in the cast. As expected with a first performance, there were details that needed attention.

Lisa Lutter of Chicago, discovered in Aspen by MOT's R. Luther Blingman, assistant music director, sang Saturday despite an illness. Her characterization of Puccini's tragic heroine, Mimì, was proper — shy, slow-moving and timid.

Lutter has beautiful elements in her soprano voice and she showed an understanding of the musical demands of the role.

William McArch McCarty's functional sets of the impoverished set-

ting of the opera in Paris' Latin Quarter have already been rented to two opera companies. The sections, which are easily moved and turned for the four acts of the opera, will definitely fit on any size stage on the Michigan tour. The pastel colors of the Paris scene, though, were hardly suggestive of the cold winter weather in the opera's story.

Mary Kay Kintlen was more exciting as Musetta than she was as Isabella in last year's "El Capitan," but she is dropping out of the tour for personal reasons.

John Riley, of Royal Oak played

the role of Alcandro/Benoit with energy and acting ability that lived up to the otherwise sad story.

Ronald Dean Williams as Marcello, David Ludwig as Colline, and Lawrence Fornosa as Schaunard performed the difficult acting requirements of the Puccini bohemians.

Joseph DeLeon definitely has control of his high Cs, but his role as Rodolfo demands a more carefully executed musical line.

Stage director William Kirk stuck to a traditional staging of the opera as did costumer Ulla Hettinger.

The Robertson Rewards

Patio Homes... The Inside Story

Who says "You can't have it all?" Robertson Brothers provides you with living rewards inside and out with the innovative Patio Home at The Heathers. A patio home is a single family home with all of the benefits of condominium purchase. Inside, you'll find glamor, enchantment and breath-taking space enhanced with the most luxurious features. Comfort and quality are trademarks of the Robertson organization, well in evidence.

And most rewarding is The Heathers community: 18+ a 170 acre playground with golf course, a magnificent club-

house, tennis courts, pool, spectacular vistas and sparkling lakes. Would you settle for less?

Square Lake Road between Opdyke and Squirrel Roads in Bloomfield Hills. "Award winning community" — Professional Builder

Patio Homes from \$209,900
Other models from \$179,000

THE HEATHERS

Sales Offices 333-0300 • Open soon to six everyday or call your Realtor.

ROBERTSON BROTHERS CO. COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS

Maybe there was a reason you waited to buy your dream home ...the reason you'll want to buy is here now!

Sierra Pointe

Sierra Pointe is an exclusive new condominium community in Farmington Hills. DEPOSITS NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

Sales Center Now Open Daily & Weekends 1-6 P.M. 661-1400

Located at Northeast corner of 13 Mile and Halsted Roads. Developed by The Irvine Group, Inc.

Student vocalists compete for awards

Two local high school Andrea Trebnik of Roseland, Denise Marie Chester Hills, are among Duff of Birmingham and 15 finalists in a vocal scholarship competition to be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9.

The competition, sponsored by the Madrigal Choral of Southfield and Maccabees Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Southfield, will be held at the Wayne State University Community Arts Auditorium before a panel of judges.

Denise, a senior at Seaholm High School, is a member of the Seaholm Choral, has participated in the Women's Vocal Society and musical productions in high school, is a skilled flutist and plans to continue her music studies in college.

Andrea, a senior at Marian High School of Birmingham, studies voice at CCS-Institute of Music and Dance and recently learned that she is a finalist in the arts recognition and talent search competition sponsored by the National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts. She plans to have a career in music.

Tickets for the Tuesday, Feb. 9 competition, \$3 for adults and \$1 for students, will be available at the door or in advance by calling Robin Schakne, 352-9553.

Rolling Oaks West

6 HOMES ...available for quick occupancy

"Best Selection In Farmington Hills" Introducing "The Provencal" ...our newest model

Rolling Oaks West is an exclusive neighborhood of 50 custom built homes. Prices from \$238,000

14 Mile Rd. Springville 13 Mile Rd. Huntman Dr. West

MODEL HOURS Daily 1-6 P.M. (Closed Thurs.)
MODEL PHONE 661-6886

Between 13 and 14 mile roads, (follow Huntman Drive West to Model)

Developed by: THE IRVINE GROUP, INC. Built by: MORGAN POWER, INC.

Here's the key ...

Creative Living

to finding your new home...

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

FARMINGTON HILLS - FAMILY TRI-LEVEL

Four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, huge family room, full wall brick fireplace, country kitchen with doorwall to patio, 250 foot lot. Priced right at \$129,900. 553-8700

FARMINGTON HILLS - Three bedroom home

with large country kitchen near downtown Farmington. Nice deck with built-in seating, big fenced yard. Insulated windows thruout. \$55,900 553-8700

FARMINGTON HILLS - LARGE FAMILY COLONIAL

newly decorated. High Site. Deep wooded lot terraced to valley and stream. Circular drive. Inground heated pool. Central Air. Finished basement. Owner transferred. \$202,500 553-8700

FARMINGTON HILLS - NICE SIZE brick ranch

with 3 bedrooms, master bath, Great Room with fireplace, formal dining room, full basement, side entrance garage, central air, first floor laundry. \$149,900. 553-8700

FOUR ACRE PRIME PRIVATE BLOOMFIELD ESTATE

Sail, swim, exclusive Lower Long Lake. Quality colonial decor custom ranch, three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, library, Florida room, formal dining room, screened porch, 1 1/4 acres wooded. Bloomfield Hills schools. \$329,000 642-0703

GORGEOUS VIEW FROM TOP OF HILL

over an acre of privacy. Beautiful inground pool with cabana. Contemporary ranch with Great Room, Florida room, oversized garage. Franklin Village by Birmingham Schools. \$154,900 642-0703

WEST BLOOMFIELD - LUXURY LOWER RANCH CONDO

on hilltop site with three bedrooms, 2 baths, plus lower level full office and 2 car garage. All rooms with view. Owner retired. \$119,900. 553-8700

FARMINGTON HILLS - NICE FOUR BEDROOM COLONIAL

with huge beautiful kitchen, natural fireplace and doorwall to deck in family room. Located in a newer centrally located Farmington Hills Subdivision. Central Air. \$199,900 553-8700

CANTON - TWO BEDROOM CONDO

in upper ranch unit located close to I-275. Great for those commuting to Metro Airport. Private entry, attached garage. Much More! \$57,500 553-8700

THOMPSON-BROWN

FARMINGTON HILLS 553-8700 BIRMINGHAM/BLOOMFIELD 642-0703 LIVONIA 261-5080