

# Ambitious Opera Lite giving 'Magic Flute'

By Corinne Abell  
staff writer

With three strikes against it, Opera Lite is still a long way from out. In fact, one of its most ambitious productions to date, Mozart's "Magic Flute" will open at the Jones-Johnson Theatre on the Royal Oak campus of Oakland Community College, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, and continue with four more performances.

David Pulice of Southfield, founder, artistic director and sometime leading bass in his own Opera Lite productions, said a name change and location change, from Lyric Opera Company of Michigan and the Marquis Theatre of Norville, created problems. To make matters worse, people often confused Pulice's company with another, now defunct, Michigan opera company.

Pulice said, "We're starting now to get people back, but it was risky to change the name and the theater at the same time."

This season Opera Lite scheduled four productions at Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills and two at the Jones-Johnson Theatre on the OCC Royal Oak campus. And while Pulice said both have a lot to recommend them, Smith The-



David Pulice

atre is sometimes hard for people to find because it is in the middle of the campus rather than in plain sight from the road.

"MAGIC FLUTE," directed by David Pfeifer of New York City Opera, will star some outstanding local singers accompanied by a 24-piece orchestra directed by David Daniels, head of the Oakland Univer-

sity music department. The romantic leads will be taken by Paul Wiltzie, tenor, Livonia, Ruth Lapoyre, Mark Vonderderk and Betsy Bronson.

The two power forces, Queen of the Night and Lord of the Day, will be Penny Kindrak of Plymouth and Carl Clendenning.

Pulice said, "We're not trying to compete with MOT (Michigan Opera Theatre). They're using big time stars. There's no good place for real good (local) talent in this town to go. We're trying to pick up the middle area."

He said that all of the people in Opera Lite are paid and an agreement with the union about the musicians for "Flute" has just been reached.

He said, "Tickets are \$10 apiece. The budget for this show is so large, with the 24 piece orchestra and all union musicians, that if we fill the auditorium (385 seats) for five performances, we'll clear \$1,000. And that's with the donations — so all of a sudden I've got my back really against the wall."

Pulice said it was "The Pirates of Penzance" last October that helped convince Maccabees Mutual of Southfield that Opera Lite was worth supporting.

Pulice said, "I started as a performer

and I still really prefer performing. I've done a lot of Gilbert & Sullivan."

PULICE STARTED DIRECTING when he was in a production of "H.M.S. Pinafore" in Dearborn. The director was hospitalized and Pulice offered to help out and the show became a smash hit with hundreds turned away at the box office.

He recently moved back here after three years with a repertory company in New York City. "Everything's coming in from London. They filter people through, but there are no big casting calls. The way the Great White Way is being put together is changing."

Pulice said he sees Opera Lite as "a bridge to MOT" and many local performers who have sung with Opera Lite have also appeared in MOT productions.

After "Magic Flute" opens on Feb. 20, it will be given at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26, 27 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, 28. For ticket information, call 471-7700.

The Opera Lite season will continue with "Give My Regards to Broadway" March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at the Smith Theatre and "The Student Prince" May 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 at the Jones-Johnson Theatre. Tickets are \$10 and \$8 for students and seniors.

## Concert to present competition winners

The Rochester Symphony Orchestra, under music director James Hohmeyer, will present its annual Young Artist Competition winner at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at Avondale High School Auditorium, 2800 Wagonway, Auburn Heights.

The winner, violinist Gabriel Bokosky, will play the second and third movement of Concerto No. 1 for Violin by Bruch.

Gabriel, 14, is in the ninth grade at Ferndale High School. He has been playing the violin for more than 10 years. He began as a Suzuki student and has continued, studying first with Laura Sias, then with Ann Ourada-Stubler of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and now with

Michael Avsharian of Ann Arbor.

He has won awards from the Music Study Club of Metropolitan Detroit, the National Music Camp at Interlochen, the Amity Music Club and the Livonia and Oakland youth symphonies. He was winner of the Junior Division of the Troy Community Orchestra Concerto Competition in 1987 performing Saint-Saens Violin Concerto in B Minor.

IN MARCH 1987, he performed the first movement of the Bach Concerto in D Minor for Two Violins with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Ford Auditorium.

Second-place finisher was Darin Kohrkeper, 22-year-old pianist from St. Clair Shores and a senior at Macomb

Community College. His teacher is Glen McClair. Third place went to Gregory Staples, 17-year-old violinist from Birmingham. He is in a junior at Andover High School of Bloomfield Hills. He studies with Camilla Wicks, who teaches at the U of M.

Other selections are: Respighi's "Pines of Rome," Leonore Overture, No. 3 by Beethoven and "Capriccio Espagnol" Opus No. 34 by Rimsky-Korsakov.

Tickets for the concert, made possible in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts, will be sold at the door the evening of the performance or in Rochester at Hiller's Mens Store in the North Hill Shopping Plaza or Janet Varner's on Main Street.

### preview

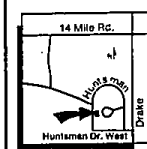
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The guest speaker will be attorney, ROBERT M. MAISNER, a prominently known expert in the condominium law area. There is no charge for this meeting. For reservations, call EDNA CLARAHAN, 478-9989 no later than February 15, 1988.

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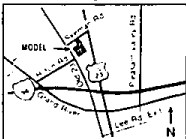
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