

# Symphony performs 'St. John Passion'

The Detroit Symphony will present its first performance of Bach's "The Passion According to St. John" at 8 p.m. today and Saturday at Ford Auditorium.

Music director Gunther Herbig will conduct the orchestra, an ensemble of internationally acclaimed soloists, the Detroit Symphony Chorus, and the Boys' Choir from Christ Church in Grosse Pointe in Ford Auditorium. Michigan Bell Telephone Co. is sponsor of the concert.

The "St. John Passion" is one of only two settings that survive of the two settings of "The Passion" by Johann Sebastian Bach reportedly composed. Last year at this time, the Detroit Symphony performed the other, "The Passion According to St. Matthew."

Soloists will be soprano Benita Valente, mezzo-soprano Hilda Harris, tenor Jon Garrison, tenor Werner Hollweg, bass Robert Holl, and baritone Rued Van Der Meer.

Valente is one of America's most celebrated interpreters of lieder, oratorio and opera. She won the Metropolitan Opera auditions in 1960 and became soprano-in-residence at the Marlboro Festival in Vermont, performing and recording with Rudolf Serkin. She has appeared with the Metropolitan Opera as well as with opera companies and major symphony orchestras throughout North America.

Harris is appearing for the first time in a Detroit Symphony subscription concert. She has appeared with the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and major companies around the world. She is also in demand as a concert soloist, performing with most of the country's

## preview

major orchestras.

Garrison makes his debut with the Detroit Symphony in the "St. John Passion." He divides his time between opera and oratorio in North America and Europe, including almost every major opera company in the world and most major orchestras. He also is a regular at the world's major music festivals and has several recordings to his credit.

Hollweg, in the part of the Evangelist, returns to the Ford Auditorium stage after debuting with the orchestra in last year's performances of the "St. Matthew Passion." He has appeared with opera companies throughout Europe and participated in most major European festivals, as well as in concert with orchestras from Germany to Japan. Recently, he began producing opera in several venues in Europe.

Holl makes his first appearance with the Detroit Symphony in these concerts, singing the part of Jesus. Specializing in art song repertoire, his career has flourished as he has given recitals throughout Europe and has recorded more than 10 albums of lieder by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, and Mussorgsky. He has been active in radio and television productions in Europe as well as films.

Considered one of the foremost Bach and lieder experts in Europe, Dutch soloist Van Der Meer returns to Detroit following his debut last year in "St. Matthew Passion."

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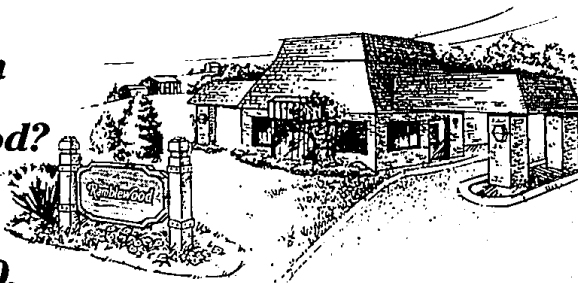


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