

Meadow Brook season set

The eight-week Meadow Brook Music Festival, a 16-concert summer symphonic series, beginning Thursday, June 16, and extending through Sunday, Aug. 14, will feature celebrated conductors and soloists performing well-known classical repertoire at the outdoor Baldwin Pavilion of the Meadow Brook Music Festival. Thursday and Sunday classical concerts of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra are designated the Chrysler Concert Series.

"In planning this summer season, we wanted to concentrate on music that many concertgoers already know and love," said Gunther Herbig, music director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, "but with so much variety that every week is stimulating and exciting for our audiences."

"We have scheduled well-known works by Tchaikovsky, Schubert and Beethoven, along with favorite orchestral overtures and vocal pieces. We will also celebrate Leonard Bernstein's 70th

birthday with the performance of one of his works.

"Each week we provide an inviting blend of musical styles and periods with the very best solo artists and guest conductors adding to the excitement. Those who attend can be assured that they will receive a full evening of entertainment."

Highlights of the summer season will include: an appearance by violinist Itzhak Perlman; two performances by pianist Claudio Arrau; a concert of excerpts from Tchaikovsky's ballets — "The Nutcracker," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Swan Lake," featuring dancers from the New York City Ballet; and two performances of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" conducted by Gunther Herbig. Additionally, one of two performances by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Kurt Masur will be included on the Sunday Detroit Symphony Classical series.

Opening the 1988 Meadow Brook Music Festival

with performances on Thursday, June 16, and Sunday, June 19, will be guest conductor Jerry Semkow and pianist Jean-Bernard Pommier. The concert will feature the music of Tchaikovsky, Piano Concerto No. 1 and Symphony No. 5.

The Meadow Brook four-concert 1988 International Artists Series will include a recital by James Galway followed by fireworks; a performance by the New York Orchestra of Authentic Instruments conducted by Christopher Hogwood; a concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted David Zinman; and a second concert by the Israel Philharmonic conducted by Kurt Masur.

Meadow Brook Music Festival concerts are held in the Baldwin Pavilion on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester, with entrances on Walton Boulevard and Adams Road. The pavilion and lawn seating accommodates more than 7,000 people. Picnic facilities are available and there are additional dining opportunities at the Festival's Trumbull Terrace.

Subscriptions to the Detroit Symphony Thursday/Sunday Symphonic Series and the International Artists Series are on sale now. Orders for tickets for individual concerts will be taken immediately, but will not be filled until mid-May, after subscription orders have been filled. Children 12 years and younger will be admitted free to lawn seating when accompanied by a paying adult.

Call 377-2010 for ticket information.

Guild to sponsor literary evening

The writing needs and publishing achievements of the Wayne State University Press will be outlined during a Cranbrook Writers' Guild Literary Evening at 8 p.m. Monday, April 11.

The Guild will present Robert Mandel, Wayne State University Press director, and two of the Press's authors at Cranbrook House, 380 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Guild president Frank Angelo will lead the discussion of present and future publications.

Nola Tutag will discuss her WSU Press book, "Discovering Stained Glass in Detroit." She will illustrate her talk with slides. Released in late February, her book features color illustrations along with the stories of outstanding stained-glass windows in Detroit area public and private buildings, homes and churches.

"It is one of the most beautiful books we have ever published," said Mandel. "There is a lot of Detroit history in it."

Also speaking will be Phillip Mason, author of the new WSU Press book, "The Ambassador Bridge: Monument to Progress." With 200 illustrations, the volume records the story of the building of the bridge linking Canada and the United States.

Refreshments will be served following the program. Tickets available at the door are free to members of Cranbrook Writers' Guild, \$3 to non-members.

For further information, call 332-0280.

Cranbrook Writers' Guild sponsors a four-day conference with top authors for 45 promising student writers in Michigan colleges. The literary evenings carry out the Guild's goal of promoting Michigan authors, as well as reading and good writing in the state.

Verdi opera opens April

"Il Trovatore," the Verdi opera set in 15th century Spain, will open Michigan Opera's season at Masonic Temple Auditorium at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 30. There will be two more performances, at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 7.

Singing the leads will be Leona Mitchell, soprano, James Dietrich, baritone, Livia Budal, mezzo soprano and Lando Bartolini, tenor. The opera will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage and will be presented in the traditional four acts with three intermissions.

Mitchell, in the role of the heroine Leonora, returns to Detroit where she has appeared as Alda, Marguerite in "Faust," and the title role in "Porgy and Bess" with Michigan Opera Theatre. She has appeared with the Metropolitan Opera and Paris Opera.

Dietrich has appeared with Michigan Opera Theatre in "Aida," "La Traviata," and "Lucia di Lammermoor."

Budal will make her company debut as the gypsy, Azucena. She is a native of Hungary, now living in Canada. She sang the same role with the New Jersey State Opera and performed it to great controversy opposite Dame Joan Sutherland and Luciano Pavarotti with the Metropolitan Opera.

Bartolini, in the title role of Verdi's troubadour, will also make his debut with Michigan Opera Theatre. He has sung with many opera companies both here and abroad and is scheduled to be in "Il Trovatore" with the Metropolitan Opera and in "Turandot" at Covent Garden Royal Opera.

The plot of "Il Trovatore" is considered one of the most complicated in the operatic repertoire. Set in 15th century Spain, it focuses on a love triangle between Manrico, the mysterious troubadour, Leonora, lady in waiting to the Queen of Aragon; and Manrico's nemesis, the Count di Luna.

Amid this tragedy and the Civil War, comes the vindictive gypsy, Azucena, who alone knows the truth about Manrico's origin — a secret not revealed until the dramatic conclusion.

The season will continue with "Die Fledermaus," May 14, 15, 18, 21; "La Boheme," May 28, June 1, 4; and Luciano Pavarotti in Concert at 4 p.m., Saturday, June 11.

For ticket information, call 874-SING. Ticketmaster outlets, Hudson's or AAA.

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