



Kim Thiele
a 'Solid Gold' assignment

JIM RIDER/staff photographer

'The greatest lesson I've learned in this business is there are only so many things in life you can't control. Sometimes I feel like a farmer who can't control the wind and hail. There'd be more security dealing with things that don't think, breathe, live and die.'

— Kim Thiele
Entertainment
Plus owner

She can tick off some panic situations she's survived including the time last summer when she had to tell Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison in mid-concert

that they couldn't go on because brownouts and power problems were wreaking havoc with the sound system and lights.

Another time, the Shirelles' connector flight from Chicago was cancelled just hours before show time. Thiele had no idea where they were or if they'd show

up. They arrived — in the nick of time — and will back this year to lend their harmonies to the Meadow Brook festival's Solid Gold Series.

Working partnership benefits audience

By Cathie Breidenbach
special writer

This year, the Music Festival's Fourth of July Celebration will feature The Meadow Brook Estate (Oakland University's student show choir), plus the Red Garter Band (a Dixieland-style combo), and Sounds of Time (a barbershop quartet) in an evening chock-full of good-time music for all ages.

Sunday, Aug. 13, pianist and university artist in residence Flavio Varani will perform the music of Gershwin, Liszt and Strauss with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Performances by artists affiliated with Oakland University attest to the long-standing cooperation between the university and the Meadow Brook Music Festival.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ago, the festival was established as a cultural enrichment program of the university, and the two institutions have worked together through the years. Most seasons, the music festival has presented talented students and faculty of Oakland University in the concert lineup.

Gregg Bloomfield, associate director of the festival, said tickets for the Fourth of July show featuring the Meadow Brook Estate are specially priced at \$5.

The evening can be an affordable outing for whole families — beginning perhaps with a picnic on the rolling grounds, followed by all-time favorite music, and ending with a professional fireworks show. As the sky fills with exploding patterns of light in the grand finale, loudspeakers play patriotic songs like "God Bless America" to cap the red, white and blue holiday celebration.

THE MEADOW BROOK Estate comes to the music festival stage following a tour for the U.S. Defense Department of European military bases.

The 10 versatile dancer/singer student members of the Estate and the eight instrumentalists with the group are selected by audition only. Most are scholarship students at Oakland University. In the spirit of the holiday, they'll sing a medley of patriotic American favorites.

Brazilian-born Varani won the Chopin International Competition when he was 18, the first of numerous awards he has won in his impressive career.

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