

Rampal to perform A slice of cucumber history at Meadow Brook

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra offers two programs, including a special appearance by renowned flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal on Saturday night at Meadow Brook.

Neeme Jarvi conducts both concerts, 8 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, at the Baldwin Pavilion on the campus of Oakland University.

On Thursday, DSO assistant concertmaster, Joseph Goldman, is featured soloist performing works of Saint-Saens and Chausson. For the Saturday Concert, Jean-Pierre Rampal brings his gold flute to the Meadow Brook stage for a special performance which concludes with a spectacular fireworks display.

Jarvi is presently music director of the Scottish National Orchestra and principal conductor of the Göteborg Orchestra. He made his conducting debut at age 18 and has since conducted most of the great orchestras in North and South America, Europe and the Soviet Union.

He is one of the most recorded conductors today and has won awards for his recordings.

Goldman has been soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on many occasions including four performances



Jean-Pierre Rampal

In Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center. He began studies at age 8 and within a year he made his first solo appearance. By age 14 he was featured soloist with both the Kansas City Philharmonic and the Kansas City Youth Symphony. At 20 he became assistant concertmaster of the DSO, the youngest musician ever to hold the position.

Jean-Pierre Rampal is one of the great champions of the flute. With his numerous performances, recordings, premieres, revivals and commissions, he has helped restore the instrument to the exalted position it held during the 17th century to the present, with excursions

into jazz, English folk-song and music of Japan and India. For tickets, call 377-2010.

Cucumbers! Do you know anyone who doesn't like this fruit — or vegetable? Actually, cucumbers are botanical fruits that are culinary vegetables. They can be used in salads, sandwiches, made into pickles and even soup.

The National Garden Bureau has designated 1989 as the Year of the Cucumber — and with good reason. It is one of the top five most popular garden vegetables.

Cucumbers first grew in India, and have been grown there for almost 3,000 years. The bitter taste sometimes experienced may be a natural insect repellent, a terpenoid derivative, which can be traced back to its wild ancestors.

Since 98 percent of a cucumber is water, they were often taken along on early caravans. Cucumber frames, the forerunner of our cold frames, were fashioned by Roman gardeners during the first century A.D. How about that?

Christopher Columbus brought cucumbers to America, and by 1808 eight varieties were grown in our colonial gardens. Cucumbers have also been used in medicine. H.J. Heinz began pickling and bottling them in 1870.

The family of Cucurbitaceae includes many cousins, among them squash, pumpkin, melon and gourds. A wise gardener doesn't follow one of these crops with another.

The two general classes of cucumbers are slicing and pickling with either bush or vining varieties. When growing these plants choose a sunny

spot with light, fertile, well-drained soil. When watering, a deep drink is preferred and a 3-4 inch layer of mulch will help retain moisture, keep soil temperature uniform and prevent weeds.

They can be grown on the ground, or trained to a vertical structure. If space is limited, a container with drainage holes can be used.

To discourage insect pests, know the life cycle of the ones that like to dine on these plants and be prepared to control them. Destroy the vines after harvest. There are many varieties that are disease resistant, so choose the ones that will be the best for your particular area.

If cucumbers are picked regularly, the vines will continue to bear. If mature cukes are left on the vine, production will stop.

Last, but important — cucumbers contain just 16 calories a cup, so enjoy them any time you wish.

Whether you grow vegetables, fruits or flowers,

down to earth
Marty Figley

gardening is a wonderful way to reduce stress and gain hours of enjoyment and satisfaction. The bending and stretching that is done while caring for the beds is excellent exercise.

A stroll to the garden in the early morning hours, or when the sun is setting can lift the spirits — the mind can begin to wander, and the gardener can begin to plan what to do to improve his special paradise.

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