

Interlochen

Photo

Top-notch training in the fine arts, up in the northern woods

By Julie Brown
staff writer

THE ROAD TO Interlochen has been traveled by many talented students.

Each summer, students gather at the National Music Camp for eight weeks of intensive training. The camp, in its 62nd season, provides training in music, theater, visual arts and dance for students ages 8 through high school.

Local students are among those who come to Interlochen. "I love it," said Jason Jannett of West Bloomfield, a French horn player. "If you enjoy music and you want to learn a lot, it's a great place to start. There's a lot of competition, so you strive for a better performance."

This is the fourth summer that Jannett, a 14-year-old ninth grader at Groves High School, has come to Interlochen. He's considering a career in music.

There are just over 1,300 students from throughout the U.S. and the world at the National Music Camp. An additional 900 Michigan high school students are at Interlochen in the All-State Division. That summer program, run by the University of Michigan, provides two-week instruction sessions.

FARMINGTON HILLS resident Pamela Barr is spending her sixth summer at camp. She's a viola major and a ninth grader. Barr, 14, plans to attend the Interlochen Arts Academy, the school-year program of arts training and academics for ninth through 12th graders. "I love it," Barr said. "I love it so much I want to work here as soon as I can."

Barr's not thinking of a career as a musician, but would like to play in a quartet or with a community orchestra. She plans to become a doctor.

Jennifer Taylor, 14, of West Bloomfield is spending her first summer at the National Music Camp. She's studying drama. "I think that it is a fabulous opportunity for anyone who is interested in the arts," said Taylor, a ninth grader at Andover High School. She's considering an artistic career.

"I just want to be happy and that will probably include some drama in there," Taylor said.

This summer's camp season started June 25 and ends Aug. 21. Students attend classes, rehearsals, theater and dance productions, public readings, concerts and visual arts exhibits during the eight-week session.

MANY ARTISTS and performing groups come to Interlochen to perform each summer, enriching the students' experience. Days at camp include time for swimming, arts and crafts, and just relaxing. Interlochen's 1,200-acre campus is 16 miles southwest of Traverse City. Campers and staff members are easy to spot in their distinctive uniforms of light blue shirts and dark blue slacks, shorts or knickers.

Students and staff members wear socks or bells indicating what division they're in — light blue for high school, red for intermediate (junior high age) and dark blue for juniors (ages 8 to 11 or 12) and staff.

Troy resident Mike Chun, 16, was at Interlochen last summer in the All-State Division. This is his first summer at the National Music Camp.

"This is a lot more focused, I guess, because they can spend more time with you," said Chun, a 10th grader at Seaholm High School who plays the clarinet. At camp, there are weekly challenges, with the third challenge being the second and so on. Students want to maintain a high position.

"So you're always constantly under pressure to work harder," Chun said. He and the others practice for lessons and recitals as well.

Chun's considering a musical career.

"I'm going to be in 10th grade, so I've got some time to think about it," he said.

DRAMA STUDENTS Emily Nathan, 12, and Natalie Pearce, 13, are enjoying their time at Interlochen. Nathan is a West Bloomfield resident and an eighth grader at West Maple Middle School. Pearce, of Troy, is an eighth grader at Boulton Park Middle School.

"We like being in plays," said Pearce. This is her fourth year at camp.

Second-year camper Shahla Nikpour, 11, is a fifth grader at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. She lives in Bloomfield Hills and is studying drama.

"My teachers and everything are really happy because it's one of the best camps in the entire world," Nikpour said. "They're really proud they have a student coming up here."

Bloomfield Hills resident Kathleen Kim, 14, is a first-year camper and a violinist. "It's great," said Kim, a ninth grader at Cranbrook who is planning a career as an English professor. "I've never been to anything like this before. I've definitely improved in violin, and I've made lots of great friends." She'd like to come back to camp next year.

Megan Laehn, 13, of Birmingham is a first-year camper and is studying dance.

"I like it a lot now," said Laehn, a ninth grader at Seaholm High School. "The beginning, it wasn't home, but now it's starting to feel like home."

SHE'D LIKE to be a professional dancer. Laehn takes dance classes with older high school students.

"There's a lot of good dancers," she said. "I just have to remember I'm the youngest one in my class."

Jerod Gunsberg, 17, of Birmingham is a first-year camper studying drama. "It's a lot of work, but you learn a great deal," he said. "It requires your focus and attention 100 percent of the time in order to do well." Gunsberg, a senior at Seaholm



Pamela Barr, a resident of Farmington Hills, practices for an audition in the out-of-doors, hoping for acceptance in Interlochen's year-round school.

High School, isn't sure about his career plans, but knows he's benefited from his summer at the National Music Camp.

"The competition's positive," he said. "The environment itself encourages you to do the best you can do. It's more competition with yourself than with others. You have to discipline yourself more than anything."

Gunsberg hasn't minded being away from the Detroit area.

"You don't really miss it. If you keep in mind what you're here for, you don't get sidetracked. It's amazing how much you can accomplish up here in eight weeks."

Aleks Mitrius, 16, of Bloomfield Hills is spending his first summer at camp and is studying trumpet and piano. He's a junior at Brother Rice High School.

"I think it's a great experience," Mitrius said. "Coming here, there's great competition. You really see how musically inclined you are."

MITRIUS FOUND that camp was less competitive than he'd anticipated. He's had free time to play basketball with friends.

Mitrius doesn't plan to come back to camp next summer, due to other commitments. He's considering

studying business or engineering in college.

"I would love to be a concert pianist, maybe with some orchestra," Mitrius said. "If I could be some kind of Horowitz, I'd drop the business."

Other local students at the National Music Camp are: Julianne Gade of Birmingham; Erin Kelly of Birmingham; Caryn Aude of Bloomfield Hills; Tineka Becker of Bloomfield Hills; Candice Toll of Bloomfield Hills; Jennifer Aquilina of Rochester Hills; Stefania Bank of Troy; Lesley Berns of Troy; Lisa Caplin of West Bloomfield; Jennifer Davis of West Bloomfield; Amy Nathan of West

Bloomfield; Meggin Silverman of West Bloomfield.

Rebecca Baumann of Bloomfield Hills; Maria Carretero of Bloomfield Hills; David Kalstein of Bloomfield Hills; John Shim of Bloomfield Hills; Amy Jannette of Farmington Hills; Christine Krench of Farmington Hills; Joshua Harris of Rochester Hills; Joshua Lichtman of Southfield; Emily Glezen of Birmingham; Heather Kamins of Birmingham; Jennifer Laster of Birmingham; Susan Lockman of Birmingham; Shannon Crawford of Rochester Hills; Risa Lichtman of Southfield; Corey Winer of West Bloomfield.

Retirement planning is focus of 5-part series

Registrations are being accepted now for a five-part series of pre-retirement seminars that begin 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, in the Farmington Hills Branch Library.

The seminars are co-sponsored by Farmington Area Commission on Aging and the Farmington Community Library. The program "Think of Your Future" has been developed by American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), a leader in the field of retirement education.

The seminars will be most useful to people 5-10 years away from retirement. However, for those who are going to retire in the next couple of years and have not done any planning, these programs will be valuable. Many people now look forward to spending 30 or more years in retirement.

"Retirement can be the most enjoyable and productive time of your life if you plan for it," said librarian Carole Hund. "Just as you prepared

for other milestones in your life, you should prepare for your retirement years. This vital phase of life is well worth planning for in a thoughtful, careful way before retirement date arrives."

A resource authority who is a specialist on the subject and a discussion leader will be at each session. Ten different topics will be covered such as attitudes and role adjustment, working options, investment

strategies, dynamic fitness, housing, lifestyle, legal affairs and estate planning.

Registration is limited to 25 and participants are encouraged to attend all five of the seminars. There is no charge, but a workbook must be purchased for \$20.

Call Carole Hund, who is also a member of the Farmington Area Commission on Aging, at 553-0300 for information and registration.

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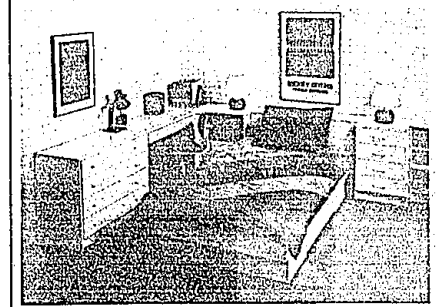
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