

MOT's season full of surprises

Michigan Opera Theatre will launch its 19th anniversary season with the Detroit premiere of the Tony award winning musical, "Les Miserables," Friday, Sept. 9.

The benefit preview performance for the opera company is a joint venture between the Nederlandse organization and the opera company. Coupled with before-and-after-theatre dining and entertainment, the evening is billed as "The Great Gala."

Additional performances will be 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 13, the official opening night; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15, 16; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17; and 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 22, 23. Additional

performances of "Les Miserables" at the Fisher Theatre are not offered on the Michigan Opera Theatre subscription schedule.

There are currently five companies of the musical. Detroit audiences will see the first national touring company, which opened in Boston in 1987 and is performing in Chicago.

While MOT forfeits its traditional fall season at the Fisher Theatre, it will resume activities at Masonic Temple with Humperdinck's opera, "Hansel and Gretel" Nov. 25, 26 and Dec. 1, 2, 3.

The Cleveland Ballet is featured in five performances at Masonic Temple March 8-11. This company,

the fifth largest in the country, will perform a lavish, multi-million dollar production of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake," choreographed by Dennis Mahler, Detroit native and Cleveland Ballet founder and artistic director.

The company's permanent guest artist, prima ballerina Cynthia Gregory (American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet) will join the 42-member corps of dancers as the Swan Queen Odette and the Black Swan Odile. Alternating with her will be principal dancers of the Cleveland Ballet.

MOT will return to its traditional spring grand opera season at Mason-

ic Temple with Mozart's "Don Giovanni" April 21, 23 and 28.

Following that will be Verdi's tragic masterpiece "La Traviata" May 5, 9, 11, 12 with American soprano Nova Thomas in the title role for the May 9 and 12 performances. American soprano Stephanie Frické will sing the role on Friday, May 11.

The season concludes with the presentation of Gounod's "Romeo and Juliette" May 19, 23, 26. Soprano Ruth Ann Swenson of the San Francisco Opera and tenor Jerry Hadley will sing the title roles.

For ticket information, call the MOT box office, 874-SING.

Season begins with blockbuster

Detroit Symphony Orchestra music director Gunther Herbig opens the 1989-90 subscription season Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21, 22 and 23, with performances of Austrian composer Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 3 in D minor.

Joining the orchestra for the first concert in their new home are mezzo-soprano Maureen Forrester, the Women of the Detroit Symphony Chorus, Eric Freudigman, director, and the Boys' Choir of Christ Church, Grosse Pointe, Frederic DeHaven, chormaster.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8:30 p.m. Saturday at Orchestra Hall.

FORRESTER, CANADIAN born, has received worldwide acclaim for her performances of Mahler's vocal works since her 1957 Carnegie Hall debut in his "Resurrection" Symphony, with the famous Mahler disciple Bruno Walter conducting.

She devotes much time to the operatic stage, performing a wide range of works by composers such as Tchaikovsky, Britten, Donizetti and Gilbert and Sullivan. To her extensive catalog of recordings on labels including RCA, CBS Masterworks, London and Teldec, she adds her first solo pop album, "From Kern to Sondheim," on the Pro Arte label.

The Detroit Symphony Chorus has collaborated with the orchestra on many occasions, including performances of the great choral/orchestral masterpieces of such composers as Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, Mahler and Stravinsky.

MANY MEMBERS of the chorus are active as soloists, organists and choir directors at metropolitan churches and appear as soloists with local orchestras. More than half teach privately and in the public schools.

Freudigman is a choral conductor, musicologist and jazz musician who also serves as music director of the

Detroit Lutheran Singers and teaches music in the Detroit Public School.

The Boys' Choir of Christ Church, Grosse Pointe is part of the church's Choir of Men and Boys, which performs in concerts and at church services. DeHaven has directed the group for the past 12 years, taking them on three tours of Europe in the last decade.

They have performed at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, served as deputy choir of Winchester Cathedral and sung in concert at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.

MAHLER'S Symphony No. 3 is one of several works based on texts taken from the collection "Des Knaben Wunderhorn." Highly idiosyncratic both in form and dramatic program, the symphony is in two parts that are divided into six movements.

Mahler included penciled-in titles in his score: I. "Pan Awakes; Summer Marches in." II. "What the Flo-

wers in the Meadow Tell Me," III. "What the Beasts of the Forest Tell Me," IV. "What the Night Tells Me," V. "What the Morning Tells Me" and VI. "What Love Tells Me."

The texts for the solo and chorus in the fourth and fifth movements are taken from Nietzsche's "Also Sprach Zarathustra" and "Des Knaben Wunderhorn."

OPENING NIGHT dinners will be offered Thursday and Saturday night of opening week at five Detroit restaurants: the Renaissance Club, the London Chop House, The Whitney, Opus One and the Pontchartrain Wine Cellars.

Ticketholders to the Sept. 21 and 23 DSO concerts will receive a 15-percent discount on their dinner at any of these restaurants. DSO tickets must be presented to receive discount.

Patrons should make their own reservations, identifying themselves as DSO opening night ticketholders. Call 587-9000 for information.

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Competition open to student musicians
The annual Michigan Young Musicians Competition for piano, violin and cello students in grades seven through 12, sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4.
The entry deadline is Dec. 4. For information on entry applications and guidelines, call Annette Chajes, 661-1000, extension 352. The winner's concert will be on May 2 and \$2,000 in prize money will be awarded. The competition will take place at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 West Maple, West Bloomfield.

On the Town
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Writers gather on Oct. 20-21

The 28th annual Writer's Conference will take place Friday-Saturday, Oct. 20-21, on the Rochester campus of Oakland University.

The 1 1/2-day conference, co-sponsored by Detroit Women Writers and Oakland University Division of Continuing Education, is a forum for beginning and established writers. It is an opportunity to exchange ideas and perfect writing skills. Professional writers in every field share their expertise with conferees in one-on-one discussions, as well as in workshops and lectures.

The Friday portion of the conference will take place 1-5 p.m., and offer individual manuscript critiques as well as writing workshop critiques. A professional writer will read 10-page manuscripts, prepare a written critique, meet privately with the conferee and discuss the work.

Friday evening, a cocktail-dinner party at Meadow Brook Hall will feature prominent author Loren Estleman as the after-dinner speaker. Estleman is a two-time winner of both the Private Eye Writers of America Shamus Award and a nominee for the American Book Award, as well as the Pulitzer Prize.

SATURDAY, 33 separate speakers heading sessions in all areas of writing will offer concurrent workshops covering fiction, non-fiction, writing for children and young adults, poetry, short stories, articles, mysteries and screenplays.

Additional subjects include how to get published, query letters, selling your work once it's written, available grants for writers, disciplining yourself to write and more.

The luncheon speaker Saturday will be Sherry Hearon, who has written 11 novels and is a five-time winner of the NEA/PEN Syndication Short Story Prize. She has twice received the Texas Institute of Letters Best Novel Award. Hearon, a New York resident, has taught at the University of Texas, the University of Houston and Clark University, and has served on the Literature Advisory Board of both the Texas Commission for the Arts and the New York State Council of the Arts. "Owning Jolene," Hearon's best seller this year, was published by Knopf. The book will be out in paperback in 1990.

FEES for the conference events, which may be attended separately, are: Friday individual manuscript critiques, \$30; writing workshop manuscript critiques, \$35; workshop auditor, \$20.

The Saturday conference sessions are \$47 for the entire day. Optional Friday evening cocktail/dinner party at Meadow Brook Hall is \$35, and the Saturday luncheon is \$7.50. There is no seating for those who opt not to attend the Saturday luncheon, but want to hear Hearon.

For registration information and brochure, call Oakland University Division of Continuing Education, 370-3120.

Galeria announces annual art contest

Friends of Polish Art in conjunction with the Orchard Lake Schools Galeria, is sponsoring the Fourth Annual Richard Kubinski Art Competition. Artists of Polish descent who were born in Michigan or are current residents of the state, are eligible. Only work original in concept and execution will be accepted.

The entry fee for adult professionals or amateurs is \$10. No entry fee for students.

Paintings must be delivered to the

Galeria, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23. The awards will be professional, \$500; amateur, \$250; student, \$100; and three honorable mentions in each category.

For information, call Galeria director Marian Gwarski, 633-0425 or co-chairmen, Mary Ellen Tyska, 575-9279 or E. John Burns, 441-3687. The opening awards reception will be 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1.

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Michigan U-W Torch Drive Run/Walk

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Sunday, September 17, 1989 HART PLAZA, DETROIT

DISTANCES AND TIMES:
5K Run (3.1 miles) - 9:00 a.m.
5K Walk (3.1 miles) - 9:05 a.m.
10K Run (6.2 miles) - 10:00 a.m.
400 Meter Run (1.4 mile) - 11:30 a.m.
(Families with children under 12 only)
LOCATION: Hart Plaza at Woodward and Jefferson in downtown Detroit.
COURSE: Starts near the Guardian Building at Congress and Griswold and finishes on Hart Plaza. Course maps will be sent to all pre-registered runners in their entry packet.
AWARDS: 10K: Top Male: \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Female: \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Male Wheelchair: \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Female Wheelchair: \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Male Master: \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, Top Female Master: \$500 U.S. Savings Bond. The top three finishers will win special commemorative plates. Medals will be awarded to the following finishers: Top 20 men and top 20 women, 39 years and under; top 25 men and women, 40 years and older; top ten wheelchair, and to all runners 60 years and older.
AWARDS: 5K RUN: Special commemorative plates to the top three male and female finishers. Medals to the

top 100 men and women finishers and the top ten wheelers.
AWARDS: 5K FITNESS WALK: This is not a race. Commemorative badges and certificates to all finishers.
OTHER AWARDS: Special awards to the five organizations with the most participants in all three events.
SPECIAL GIFT: A Mich-Con-United Foundation 40th Anniversary T-shirt will be given to all entrants.
ENTRY FEE: \$8.00 (non-refundable) if postmarked by September 7, 1989. \$3.00 for children 12 and under. All entries after September 7th are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children, with late registration only taking place at Hart Plaza on Sunday, September 17th.
Checks should be made payable to Mich-Con-UW Torch Drive Run/Walk. Do not send cash.
Mail to: UW Torch Drive Run/Walk, 500 Griswold Street, 7th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226.
NOTE: Race number and packet will be mailed one week prior to the event. All entries after September 7th are \$10.00 and will only take place on Hart Plaza after 7:30 a.m. on September 17, 1989.

MICH-CON-UNITED WAY TORCH DRIVE RUN/WALK - OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM
ENTRY FEE: \$8.00 (All entries after September 7th are \$10.00) \$3.00 for children 12 and under. (All entries after September 7th are \$5.00.)
NAME (Print) _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ AGE (for 9-99) _____ SEX: M _____ F _____
EVENTS YOU ARE RUNNING: 5K 10K 5K WALK 400 METER
If running on a team, list the name of your team below. Team captain must submit a complete list of team entrants by September 7, 1989. (Each team member must submit a waiver. To be signed by the captain, or parent/guardian if under 18.)
For an on-site medical emergency, participants in the Michigan U-W Torch Drive Run/Walk will receive 24 hours and 24 days and 24 nights and 24 hours of emergency medical attention. The Michigan U-W Torch Drive Run/Walk is not responsible for any injuries sustained by participants in this race. It is the responsibility of participants to read and understand the rules and regulations of this race. The Michigan U-W Torch Drive Run/Walk is not responsible for any injuries sustained by participants in this race. It is the responsibility of participants to read and understand the rules and regulations of this race.
ATHLETE: _____ PARENT GUARDIAN (if under 18) _____
Entry cannot be accepted if Waiver is not signed. Make checks payable to Mich-Con-United Way Torch Drive Run/Walk.
Returns to: United Way Torch Drive Run/Walk, 500 Griswold Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226
NOTE: The above listed entries are for Michigan U-W Torch Drive Run/Walk. They do not represent a donation to United Way for the benefit of Michigan.