

# Magic touch turns ordinary into special

By Avigdor Zaromp  
Special writer

The Four Star Recital Series at Orchestra Hall opened to a full house on Sunday. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Jeffrey Kahane presented a recital of works ranging from the old and established to the new and unfamiliar.

Due to a snafu in ticket handling, there were long lines at the ticket windows minutes before the scheduled 4 p.m. starting time. This caused a half-hour delay.

Executive director Deborah Borda came on stage and reassured the au-

dience that efforts would be made to prevent a repetition of this situation. To look at the bright side, however, long lines and great demand for classical events are always encouraging signs, the temporary inconvenience notwithstanding.

FEW ARE the performing artists who have a magic touch. Yo-Yo Ma is certainly one of those few. Pianist Jeffrey Kahane, whose name isn't as prominent, is also a gifted artist.

There was an overall sense of communication and rapport between the two of them most of the time, especially after the first few Beetho-



**Avigdor Zaromp**

ven variations on Mozart's theme from "The Magic Flute." This set of variations is one of the less consequential of Beethoven variations on Mozart's theme from "The Magic Flute," but Ma's magic touch enhanced its perceived quality.

The new frontiers on this program

consisted of a Sonata for Piano and Cello by the contemporary American composer Kenneth Frazelle, who dedicated this work to Yo-Yo Ma. As is often the case with untested works, it is difficult to assess its musical value. However, this sonata could not be in better hands. The

commitment of Ma and Kahane to this work seemed sincere, and it was well received by the audience.

SEVEN POPULAR Spanish Songs by de Falla amounted to another light item on the program that was enhanced by the performing artists. The songs, which are written for the human voice, fared well with the refined singing of the cello.

None of these items however, could approach the Sonata in F major by Brahms. When the unmistakable quality of the music is added to the high compatibility of the performing artists, the combination is unbeatable.

Here, the magic was in the music itself, and the intense performance brought it to light. The balance between the instruments reached the ultimate in this work, with the exception of some isolated places. One of those exceptions was in the opening pizzicato of the slow movement, in which the cello was barely audible

— the piano should have been more restrained.

THIS Brahms sonata is so entrenched in the repertoire that the efforts to digress from it may be understandable — if not successful. Like a massive star with its awesome gravity, this masterpiece only reaffirms the futility of the attempt of finding lasting fulfillment with lesser works. This is not to say that the other items on the program are undeserving of exposure. At least the works by Beethoven and de Falla are well deserving even if not in the same league of the Brahms sonata.

The slow movement of Rachmaninoff's sonata was played as the first of two encores. The second encore — with little announcement — kept the audience guessing for the few introductory bars. Several composers' names went through my mind until the familiar strains of "Over the Rainbow" emanated from the cello. The magic touch converted yet another common, simple tune into a refined work of art.

## Sculptor has affinity for limestone

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"He was pretty inspiring — because of his work ethic — although he let you do what you wanted," said "G. Alden Smith was head of the department."

Stone's work in the Illinois State Museum and Springfield, Ill. municipal collections (where he lived for many years), and in private collections in Illinois, Michigan and California. He has been represented in invitational in the Midwest and

far West. Locally, his work has been shown at Hill Gallery of Birmingham, at the Michigan Stone Invitational at Michigan Gallery of Detroit and at Michigan Annual XVII at The Art Center of Mount Clemens.

## Function to art

Continued from Page 1

were one of a kind whimsical pieces and his hollow ware.

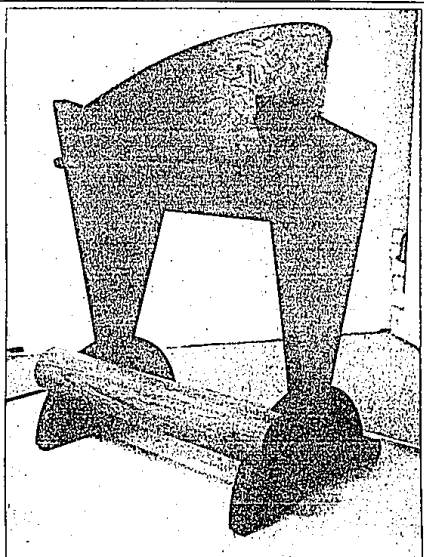
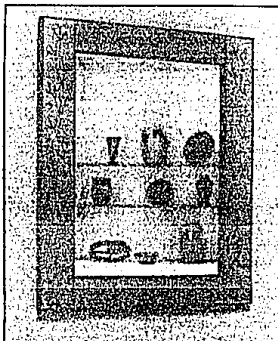
Robertson specialized in marquetry with yesteryear themes in contemporary settings.

Broholm has a bachelor's in fine arts from Boston University as does

Crowley. Dunagan has a master's in furniture design from Rhode Island School of Design and Robertson studied at Reed College in Portland, Or. before settling in Lincoln, Mass.

The exhibition is open 2-7 p.m. Thursdays, 3-8 p.m. Fridays, 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and by appointment. For information, call 645-6212 or 478-0946.

The mirror, at right, with a display of Clarice Cliff pottery reflected in it, is by Jamie Robertson. It is hardwood veneer and ebony with marquetry. At far right is a leather, burnings, solid veneer chair by Dale Broholm.



## Luncheon to help designers' cause

Michael Farrell, art historian, teacher and offtime travel guide, will be the speaker for the Saturday, Oct. 7 luncheon sponsored by The Coalition for Interior Design Registration.

This special fund-raising event, chaired by Cynthia Ohanian, ASID, interior designer of Birmingham, will be at the Ritz Carlton of Dearborn with cocktail hour from 11 a.m. to noon and luncheon at noon. Interior designers, clients, members of the trade and others interested in Farrell's subject, "Palladian architecture" and the cause are welcome. For tickets and information, call Ohanian's office, 647-7890 or Howard Davidson at Hudson's 443-6143. The Coalition, made up of members from the American Society of Interior Designers, Institute of Business Designers, Interior Design Educators Council and the International Furnishings & Design Association, lobbying for standardizing and licensing procedures for the interior design profession. This is part of a nationwide movement. Some states already require licensing. In Michigan the process is taking shape. Brian Collins, ASID, Coalition president will speak about the progress being



Cynthia Ohanian

made toward professional registration.

Guests will be seated at tables of 10 and a luncheon has been planned. Cash bar available.

Farrell is a popular speaker who has given programs on art through Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, Village Women's Club, many area colleges and universities and a number of galleries. He regularly leads art tours to Europe and is founder and director of Art House of Detroit.

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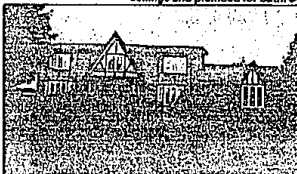
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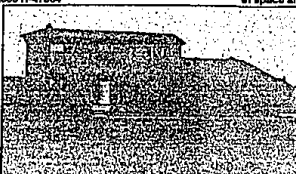
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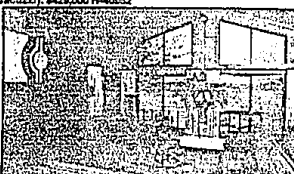
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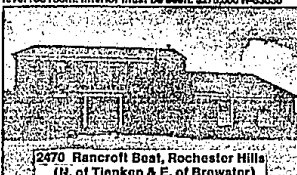
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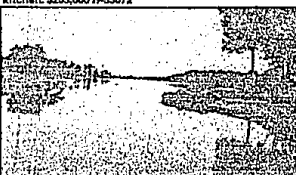
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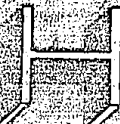
Lakeside living with large dock and several just 2 years old. Professionally landscaped with sprinkler and outdoor lighting systems. Spacious 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, family room with second kitchen. \$289,900 H-52528



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