

Creative Living

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Classical's 'real thing' is best, too

By Thomas M. Kuras
Special writer

Along with changes in the weather and more interesting television, this is a time of intense musical activities in churches and concert halls.

Of course, classical music devotees find opportunities all year long, such as the summer offerings at Meadow Brook and in Ann Arbor, but this season brings a rush of activity. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra in its new home at Orchestra Hall, seasons of the local orchestras such as the Pontiac-Oakland, Birmingham Bloomfield, Oakway, Scandinavian and Plymouth symphony orchestras are underway and chamber music groups are busy. There is a veritable treasure-trove of possibilities, but how many of us are taking advantage of these live performances?

In our busy over-scheduled lives, it is easy to find an excuse to stay home and listen to recorded music, especially via the preferred medium of the 90s, the compact disc. Indeed the recording industry has provided the only opportunity for listeners to hear a great deal of the repertoire. But, the recording should never be considered to equal a live performance, to be the "real thing."

THE CLASSICAL MUSIC listener, used to attending performances in sparsely filled halls, can only marvel at the flood of enthusiastic fans who fill the stadiums and theaters for rock concerts to capacity. What is the secret of their success and why has the classical music community failed to attract such devoted followers?

How do you explain the difference between the average person in the United States and Austria regarding classical music? American tourists returning from Austria marvel that everyone there has a favorite Mozart quartet or symphony and can whistle or hum the prominent themes. Here, all too often, people are proud to say that they would "never listen to such stuff."

Exposure to classical music must begin at an early age. It must be cultivated at school and encouraged at

home by truly interested parents.

Anyone who has tasted and knows "the real thing" isn't surprised when children turn their noses up at canned spinach or green peas. It's simply not "the real thing." The Dairy Association and Coca Cola use those very words to promote their products.

Students across the country are being encouraged to develop good reading habits by the touring "raisins," but how well will children be supported by parents who never read a book themselves or are content to let the television be the only source of information and/or entertainment.

The seed is essential, but so is good ground and watering. Yes, it takes time, energy and commitment.

MUSIC, LIKE VISUAL ART and literature is a means of communication. A composer, steeped in his craft, puts symbols down on paper that carry the external of his message. But, the meaning of the music is only fully realized when a thoughtful performance is given to a living, receptive audience.

Today, one can't conceive of a world without records, cassettes or compact discs. But, the false prophecies of Glenn Gould about the demise of the live concert must be put to rest.

"People just love live performances. All they need is enterprise incentive. . . ." said Viennese pianist Paul Badura-Skoda.

Interesting, inventive programming combined with vital, committed performances can and does attract audiences. The New York Times quoted West Coast conductor Gerard Schwarz awhile back about the responsibility of the music director to stretch his own horizons to make the concert season as varied as possible. Audiences the world over are regularly offered Tchaikovsky's last three symphonies. But, Maestro Schwartz, who was preparing for a Russian tour at that time, said he was surprised to learn that even Russian orchestras rarely perform the Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 1, "Winter Dreams," scheduled for performance on his tour.

Grossman, violins, Paul Willington, violoncello and Thomas M. Kuras, harpsichord, will be joined by guest artist, Carol Perkins, flute.

For ticket and reservations, call 643-7788. Christ Church Cranbrook is at Lone Pine and Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. The concert will be in the Guild Hall.

Chamberworks giving concert on Friday

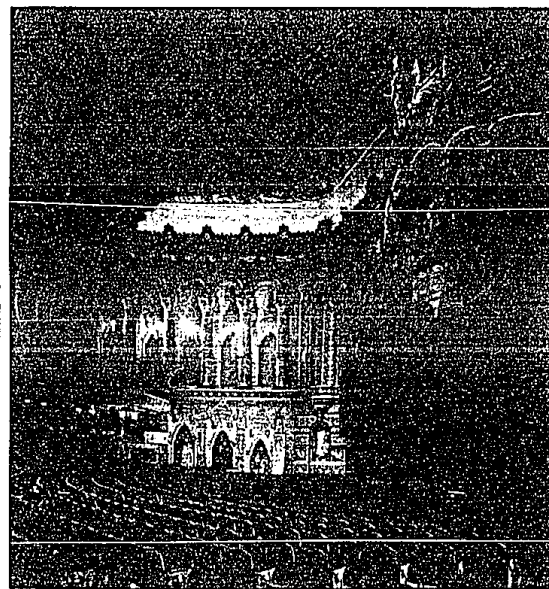
"Chamber Music with Flute" is the title of the concert by Chamberworks 8 p.m. Friday at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills.

The concert, with artistic director Thomas Kuras, will feature works by Bach, Mozart, Leffloth, Rameau and Telemann.

Performers, Maria Smith and Hall



Tower Street of West Bloomfield Township is two 10,000-square-foot office-retail buildings with the look of small village with clock tower and courtyard.



Since its complete renovation and restoration, the Fox Theatre has drawn large crowds to see the theater itself as well as the stage productions.

Designs honored

Michigan Society of Architects chose 10 projects for the 1989 Design Honor Award.

The winning projects are:

• City of Allen Park Pumping Station & Retention Basin; owner, Wayne County Statutory Drainage Board; architect, Wade-Trim/Daurman, Rochester.

• B.O.C. Powertrain Headquarters, Brighton; owner, Etkin Equities, Inc.; architect, Kenneth Neumann/Robert Greager & Associates, Southfield.

• Albert and Peggy DeSalle Auditorium; owner, Cranbrook Educational Community; architect, Robert Saarinen Swanson Inc., Bloomfield Hills.

• Fox Theatre, Detroit; owner, Little Caesar International; architect, William Kessler and Associates, Inc., Detroit.

• Hobbs and Black Corporate Center, Ann Arbor; owner, D.B. Associates; architect, Hobbs and Black Associates Inc., Ann Arbor.

• Independence Lake Park Meeting Center, Webster Township; owner, Washtenaw County; architect, Osler/Milling Architects, Inc., Ann Arbor.

• Oakland County Jail Addition and Renovation, Pontiac; owner, Oakland County; architect, Kenneth Neumann/Joell Smith & Associates, Southfield.

• Prototype Franchise Building, Jackson; owner, Domino's Pizza Inc.; architect, Gunnar Birkerts and Associates Inc., Birmingham.

• Tower Street, West Bloomfield Township; owner, Tower Street Partnership; architect, Edmund London & Associates Inc., Southfield.

• West Bloomfield Nursing and Convalescent Center, West Bloomfield Township; owner, Eight Star Limited Partnership; architect, Edmund London & Associates Inc., Southfield.

Quilt exhibition to benefit parents group

"Quilts: Gentle Reminders" an exhibition and sale of antique quilts dating from 1840, will be Friday and Saturday at Lutheran Church of the Master, 3333 Coolidge (just north of Big Beaver), Troy.

Curated by Merry Silber, who coordinated the quilt shows at Somerset Mall, the show will consist mainly of the Albert and Merry Silber Collection, which has just returned from an extended tour of Michigan with the Michigan State University Museum.

"We are adding 25 indigo blue and white quilts to this collection," said Silber, "as well as more than 40 antique quilt tops never before seen and just begging to be quilted and finished. It's an affordable way to start a quilt collection of your own," she said.

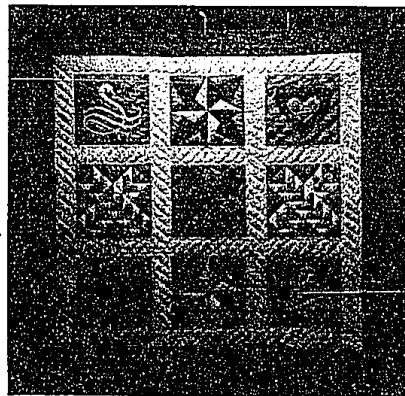
Other features of this event will be ongoing quilting demonstrations,

the quilt film, "Hearts and Hands," the popular "Bring Your Own Quilt," lecture and quilting supplies and fabrics.

A beautiful new quilt, "Gentle Reminders," will be given as a prize at 5 p.m. Saturday. It was designed by Merry Silber and made by master quilter Michael Flores especially for this show.

For information on the prize or the show, call 642-4371 or 478-8408.

Lutheran Church of the Master, Thomas A. Barbret, pastor, was established in 1964 and has since developed a wide worship ministry and provided support for many people in the community, including Parents Flag/Detroit, a support group for parents of gay children, which is sponsoring this show. Admission is \$3 at the door.



The "Gentle Reminders" quilt at far right was designed by Merry Silber of Birmingham for this event and made by master quilter Michael Flores. It will be given as a prize at 5 p.m. Saturday. It is 80 by 60 inches in pastel shades and can be used as a wall hanging. The quarter-pattern, appliqued "Tulip and Star," 1850, from the Silber collection, will be in the exhibition. It is red, green and white.