

Unfamiliar music transcended boundaries

By Avigdor Zoromp
special writer

A concert Friday at the Belian Arts Center in Troy attracted a largely Armenian audience. The artists were soprano Elisabeth Pehlivanian and her brother, violinist George Pehlivanian. They are Armenians, born in Lebanon, who came to this country at an early age.

Thomas Kuras, pianist and music director at the Belian Center, has been involved in many events in the Armenian community. His national

review

origin is Greek, but when asked whether the Armenian language was Greek to him, he replied that he knew some Armenian words and phrases, making me wonder to what extent was I safe with my Hebrew comments.

While languages and nationalities are a fact of life, the language of

music is universal, transcending national barriers. This aspect was established even more in this program than in many others.

The only major work from the standard repertoire on this program was Beethoven's Spring Sonata in F Major. Shorter selections by Menotti and de Falla were the others by familiar composers, the rest were by Armenian composers I didn't know.

YET, THIS UNFAMILIAR music was the most important part of this

unusual event. The most notable item was a song cycle by Arutunyan, dealing with the relationship between the Armenian diaspora and the homeland. The term "diaspora" was actually used by Elisabeth Pehlivanian in her introduction to this song cycle.

This was unusual since this term is normally applied to Jewish minorities. One didn't have to know the Armenian language, however, to be moved by the forceful sentiment of this song. The introductory explanation was helpful, though.

Among the standard selections, Beethoven's sonata received a competent performance. While it isn't among Beethoven's most technically challenging, it has some pitfalls that were tackled successfully. The piano wasn't in perfect tune, however, and it was more noticeable here than in the other selections.

George Pehlivanian, impressive with selections by Komitas and Spentorian, concluded with the familiar Spanish dance by de Falla.

In addition to his abilities as a violinist, he is working on a master's

degree in conducting the University of Indiana.

Elisabeth has degrees from the University of California. Her attempts to concentrate on Armenian music in her formal studies have met some obstacles, since most of the limited financial resources are diverted to other minorities.

Members of the Armenian community are justified in being proud of George and Elisabeth Pehlivanian. They are a worthy asset to the entire artistic community, regardless of national origin.

exhibitions

Belian Art Center

Paintings, sculpture and graphics by Vasarely, art to wear jewelry and 20th century sculpture, paintings and graphics are currently on display, 5580 Rochester, Troy.

Four Winds Gallery

"Santa Fe Style," a show of what's hot in the Southwest in terms of folk art, sculpture, prints and jewelry, is on display through April 30. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 340 E. Maple, Birmingham.

Detroit Focus

Glass installations by Charles Bird, Larry Cressman and Suzy Surek are on display through April 20. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 743 Beaubien, Detroit.

Rochester City Hall

Paintings by Susan Jager are on display at Rochester Hills City Hall through April. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, off Avon, Rochester Hills.

Galeria Biegas

"Stark Allegories" by Keith Sterling, Jorge Galvez and Robert Han-

sen are on display through May 23. Hours are 4-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 35 Grand River East, Detroit.

Sybaris Gallery

Works in clay by Carole Aoki, Christina Bertoni (Cranbrook Academy of Art graduate) and Philip Cornelius are on display to May 5. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 301 W. Fourth, Royal Oak.

Detroit Institute of Arts

American paintings from the Manogian Collection are on display through May 27. The 70 paintings from these Grosse Pointe collectors represent some of the greatest American artists — Eakins, Cole, Peale, Bierstadt, Sargent, Chase and Prendergast. There is an admission charge for this special exhibit which is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, 5200 Woodward, Detroit.

Swidler Gallery

Glass jewelry, handblown by Elisabeth Carey and worked by Gloria Barroso and Barbara Bell are on display through April 28. Also translucent porcelain vessels by Curtis and

Susan Benze. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, until 9 p.m. Friday and 5 p.m. Saturday, 308 W. Fourth, Royal Oak.

Meadow Brook Gallery

"Michele Oka Doner at Mid-Career," continues through May 20. While this sculptor now lives in New York, the 18 years she lived in Michigan had a major impact upon her approach to her art. Her work is in major public and private collections. Hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 2-6:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday 7-8:30 p.m. on the evenings of Meadow Brook Theatre performances, Oakland University, Rochester.

Detroit Gallery of Contemporary Crafts

New ceramic works by Susan Garson and Tom Pakel are on display, 104 Fisher Building, Detroit.

Yaw Gallery

Jewelry by Falk Burger is on display through April 7. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 550 N. Woodward, Birmingham.



Showing flat glass artistry

A juried show at the County Galleria, "Image, Light & Structure," gives glass artists an opportunity to hang large flat works in an unusual and exciting setting. The works are displayed in 72 brick arches overlooking the skylighted atrium area of the Executive Office Building in the County Service Center,

1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac. Shown above is West Bloomfield artist Dan Katsir. The Galleria is open Monday-Friday during regular business hours. A brochure listing all of the events of Michigan Glass Month (April) is available at the County Galleria.

The Prudential Great Lakes Realty

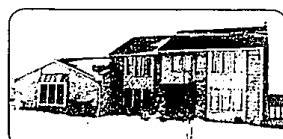
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WHAT A FIND! Beautiful 4 bedroom Colonial is nestled on wooded lot. Highlights garden room, 2 story great room with fireplace, butler's pantry with wet bar, spacious foyer with hardwood floor, walk-out lower level and 3 car garage. \$315,500 626-9100



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IT SPARKLES! Custom built Contemporary features quality amenities. Includes cathedral ceilings, fireplace in great room, oak cabinets in kitchen, leaded glass, 4 bedrooms and library. Offers security and sprinkler systems and circular to 3 car garage. \$249,500 851-9100 06-B-4043



MOTHER NATURE AT HER BEST! Beautiful treed lot at "creek's bend" forms backdrop for the open Colonial. Features updated kitchen with breakfast nook, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, dining room, finished lower level and family room with fireplace. \$199,900 626-9100 02-A-3989



OPEN HOUSE

OPEN SUN 2-5, 25390 Carrollton, Farmington Hills E. of Drake, S. of 11 Mile. BETTER THAN NEW! Totally updated Colonial features huge country kitchen with vaulted ceiling and Jeco-Air range, 2 bay windows, glass enclosed porch, fireplace in family room and master suite with sitting area! den. \$229,500 626-9100 02-B-3713

OPEN SUN 2-5, 28533 Salem, Farmington Hills N. of 12 Mile, W. of Inkster. COUNTRY LIVING! Nestled on almost a wooded acre this Colonial showcases parquet floors, family room with fireplace, built-ins, library, dining room and living room. Offers finished basement with wet bar. \$229,000 626-9100 02-B-3910

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-5, 35721 Tanglewood, Farmington Hills S. of 14 Mile, W. of Drake. RAMBLEWOOD LAKE ESTATES. New construction Contemporary Townhouses and Ranches. Highlights skylights, vaulted ceilings, marble fireplace, jacuzzi, downfalls and wet bar. Offers dramatic great room, library, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 2 car garage. Prices range from \$199,900 to \$229,900. 478-5000 07-B-0418

OPEN SUN 1-4, 19563 Scenic Harbour, Northville N. of 7 Mile, W. of Meadowbrook. A KNOCKOUT! Beautifully decorated this Colonial highlights 4 bedrooms including 2 master size bedrooms, family room with fireplace, remodeled kitchen and 2.5 baths. \$170,000 478-5000 07-D-3994

OPEN SAT & SUN 2-5, 26730 Greythorne, Farmington Hills N. of 11 Mile, W. of Middlebelt. CHARM ABUNDANT! Beautiful Colonial sits on private lot with fence. Basins Florida room off updated kitchen, fireplace in family room, hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, dining room and 2.5 baths. Recently redecorated and painted! \$144,900 626-9100 02-B-4064

OPEN SAT 1-4 & SUN 2-5, 19932 Stout, Detroit N. of Pembroke, W. of Evergreen. STATER'S OR FINISHERS! Lovely 3 bedroom brick home located on lot with motion lights. Features living room, step saving kitchen, basement, security system and all appliances. \$35,500 478-5000



FABULOUS FARMINGTON RANCH! Nestled on large treed lot this home features beautiful family room with fireplace, 3 bedrooms, now ceramic tile in kitchen, living room with second fireplace, 2.5 baths, finished basement and patio. \$169,900 626-9100 02-B-4056



CRANBROOK VILLAGE LOCATION, BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL! This special Ranch is accented by an open foyer, hardwood floors, chef's delight kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family room with fireplace, dining room, central air and huge basement. So much more! \$125,500 626-9100 02-A-3981



SERENE SETTING. Overlooking stream this spacious Hunters Ridge Condo offers goshouse entry. Features neutral decor throughout, 3 bedrooms, large living room, formal dining room, 2 baths, central air, laundry room and 2 car garage. \$117,000 626-9100 02-B-4082



AN APPEALING PACKAGE! Farmington Ranch presents 3 bedrooms, new kitchen floors, counter and appliances, living room with second fireplace, updated baths, hardwood floors and breakfast nook. Offers window treatments. Treed lot! \$114,500 626-9100



TRADITIONAL AND DIGNIFIED! Large Colonial comes loaded with extras. Showcases circular stairs, open kitchen to lovely family room with fireplace, den with hardwood floor, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 3 car garage. Beautiful landscaping and deck! \$193,500 626-9100 02-B-4055



PLEASING TO THE EYE! Farmington Hills Colonial offers comfortable floor plan. Includes attractive arched fireplace in family room, 4 bedrooms, newer kitchen, formal dining room, living room and 2.5 baths. Lots of updates! Close to schools! \$154,500 626-9100



CAPTIVATING CONDO! Best location in quiet complex overlooks garden and clubhouse. Updated throughout this condo's open floor plan features full mirrored wall in dining room, 2 bedrooms, recessed lighting, newer kitchen and 2 car garage. Great buy! \$84,900 626-9100 02-B-3759

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