



## In 'New Moon'

Thomas Murphy and Jacqueline Bacus appear in the St. Bede Players production of the Sigmund Romberg opera-ta of "The New Moon" opening at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Southfield-Lathrup High School Auditorium. Performances run through Sunday, May 6. For ticket information call 557-8527 or 557-7245.

# Audience pays tribute to genius

Given so many capable pianists, sometimes it's hard to see how it's possible to add another dimension of artistic fulfillment.

Murray Perahia is one of a few pianists of our time who are capable of doing just that. He did it again Saturday, April 14, at Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, in the University Musical Society series before a virtually sell-out audience.

The program featured works by leading 19th century Romanticists — Franck, Schumann, Chopin and Liszt.

At the outset, I wished Perahia would have included some of the abundant treasures before and after the 19th century. His wide repertoire certainly spans these more extensive domains.

HOWEVER, MOST of this program stayed away from the overexposed, popular hits and consisted of works known primarily to professional pianists. Yet, this audience demonstrated the maturity and so-

phistication required to fully appreciate such a program.

Schumann's Fantasiestücke Op. 12, for example, consists of eight extensive movements of different character.

It's hard to imagine, though, a performance of this intriguing and challenging work that would keep an audience in suspense from beginning to end. Most audiences would at least applaud between some of the movements, finding the long attention too much.

It was a tribute to this audience, however, that an artist the stature of Perahia could present this work with unbroken concentration. Usually this only happens on recordings.

THE PROGRAM opened with Franck's Prelude, Choral and Fugue. Among the attempts to create bridges between the baroque and much later periods, few are as strong and enduring as this performance of the powerful buildup of the theme toward the ultimate fugue.



Avigdor Zoromp

One exception to the strong, almost infallible showing in this event was Chopin's Scherzo No. 3 in C sharp minor. Some of the double octaves weren't up to Perahia's level in other selections. In addition, the work as a whole had some excessive roughness to it, suggesting a diminished level of control.

A far more refined Chopin emerged from the rarely performed Mazurka in B flat minor, Op. 24 No. 4, and the Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 55, No. 2, which is distinct from the popular one in the same key.

LISZT'S DESCRIPTIVE "Au Bord d'une Source" ("Beside a Spring") sparked with an almost impres-

sionistic flavor. The technically formidable "Rhapsodie Espagnole" concluded this program. Here, the bravura technique wasn't an end unto itself, but was used to reinforce the festive spirit of the Spanish tunes used in this work.

The technical strain was hardly noticeable — with enough room left to attend to the musical demands. The themes emerged clearly and almost unbroken in spite of the fierce acrobatics around them.

The turbulent applause and standing ovation prompted Perahia to perform Schubert's Impromptu in A flat minor as an encore. The applause persisted until lights came on, indicating that it was truly over.

## upcoming things to do

### ● John McCutcheon

Fiddler, banjo picker, dancer and hammer dulcimer master John McCutcheon will appear at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at the Community Center, Farmington-Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person. Call 477-8404 for more information.

### ● Village players

The week of Sunday-Saturday, April 22-28, has been proclaimed by Mayor A. Randolph Judd as "Village Players of Birmingham Week" in Birmingham. The Village Players celebrating its 67th year is one of the oldest amateur theaters in the country and the second oldest in Michigan. The players' "Open House" is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, April 25-26, at the playhouse, 752 Chestnut. Visitors will be able to tour the theater and view renovation work. Visitors may watch a

rehearsal of "Steel Magnolias" on April 25 and observe set building for "Steel Magnolias" on April 26. For more information about the free tour call 643-8084.

### ● Motown adventure

The Radisson Plaza Hotel at Town Center in Southfield has joined forces with Detroit's Motown Historical Museum at Hitsville USA to offer popular music fans and visitors a weekend combining a pilgrimage to the home of the "Motown Sound" with Greater Detroit dining and hotel accommodations. The hotel and museum are working together to commemorate Motown's 30th anniversary year. The weekend package for two, dubbed the "Motown Museum Adventure," consisting of a deluxe guest room for Friday, Saturday or Sunday night, a welcome cocktail for two, round-trip shuttle service to the Motown Museum, admission for two, special souvenir and breakfast for two the next morning at Tango's European Bistro. The package costs \$99 per couple.

### ● Luncheon theater

Peanut Butter Players, Detroit's only professional children's luncheon theater, announces the extension of "How to Eat Like a Child (and Other Lessons in Not Being Grown Up)," a musical adaptation of the children's book by Della Ephron. Two performances have been added: Saturday, May 12, and Sunday, May 20. The show is regularly scheduled to run every Saturday-Sunday through May 6, at the Players' Club in downtown Detroit. Hot dog lunch is served at noon; the show starts at 1 p.m. Tickets at \$8 include lunch and the show. For reservations call 559-6767 "PBP" between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The 24 Peanut Butter Players are split into two separate casts for Saturday and Sunday performances.

### ● Readers theater

Second performance of the Spring Series of Readers Theater will be given at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 22, in the DeRo Theater at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloom-

field. A complimentary wine bar will open at 3:15 p.m. The program features David Fox, Harry Goldstein, Elizabeth Elkin Weiss, Rube Weiss and Paul Winter and presents works by Jerry Kosinski, Groucho Marx, Arthur Kober, Woody Allen and Moishe Nadir. Harold Norris will serve as host of the program. Artistic director is Yolanda Fleischer. Tickets are available at the door beginning at 3 p.m. There is an admission charge. For information, call Readers Theater at 967-4030.

### ● New season

Meadow Brook Theatre is featuring two Broadway musicals, "Cabaret" and "Pump Boys and Dinettes," plus the Michigan premiere of "What I Did Last Summer" in its 1990-91 lineup. The theater on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills will open its 25th season with "Cabaret," Oct. 4-28. For further information call the box office at 370-3300.

## Trip to Fredericks museum set

The work of internationally acclaimed sculptor Marshall Fredericks of Birmingham will be the focus of a Community House-sponsored lecture and trip Wednesday.

Fredericks will begin the day by giving a lecture at 8 a.m. at the Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

From there the group will board a

deluxe motorcoach and travel to the Arthur Fine Arts Center and Gardens at Saginaw Valley State, where the Marshall Fredericks Museum is.

The group will have lunch in the campus dining room and return to the Community House by 4 p.m. Cost for the day is \$47. Reservations may be made by calling The Community House travel department, 644-5832.

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