

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons 411-644 1100



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(Above) The Wright Bros. are part of the fun when "New Vaudeville" with Fred Garbo and the brothers is presented Wednesday, July 25, on Family Night. (Below) Here's a scene from the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit. Santa and the parade are previewed at Meadow Brook on Wednesday, Aug. 16.



Family Night

New series for kids, grown-ups

By Carolyn Barnett-Goldstein
special writer

THIS IS A FAMILY music alert! Finally, there's an evening concert series for the entire family.

The Meadow Brook Music Festival will present the first of three Family Night series concerts, "Serious Fun with the DSO," with David Daniels conducting the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, at Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills.

Second concert in the series is the "New Vaudeville Night," starring Fred Garbo and the Wright Bros., with juggling, acrobatics and clowning, Wednesday, July 25. The family series concludes with "Santa's Summertime Stage," on Thursday, Aug. 16. It features Thanksgiving Parade floats four months early, plus marching bands and drum and bugle corps. As promised, Santa will make an early appearance.

Gregg Bloomfield, managing director of the music festival, places so much importance on instituting the family series he decided to open it by engaging the DSO and "giving up one of its pops concert series to do this."

HE EXPLAINS the festival also is recognizing and considering the existence of single-parent families. "What we are attempting to do with this whole family night series is to

make it possible for single parents, as well as other parents, to come together with children of all ages," he says.

Admission prices reflect the sincerity of the festival's intentions, along with the desire to expose classical music to more people, to younger audiences. Pavilion seats are \$7.50 and \$10; no lawn seating is available.

Bloomfield says, "Where is the audience going to come from? regard to orchestral music." In the future, "the public doesn't hear the music? Well, maybe it's high time we did something for young people."

The series is not to be confused with the (daytime) children's series concerts. It differs in its evening performance, in its age recommendation of 7 and up, and in its musical programming to appeal to all ages.

The opening family concert also is billed as a behind-the-scenes look at classical music. Bloomfield says, "The audience will see what goes into preparing one of these pieces, and what went on with the composers when they were working. It will see how different parts (of a piece) came together. It didn't just always exist. Somebody had to put it together." This applies to the performance as well as a composition.

MAESTRO DANIELS, a professor of conducting in the graduate school at Oakland University, programmed the concert with this in mind. "We tried to put together pieces that are fun to play and to listen to. I will speak to the audience directly, and there will be musical excerpts played by the orchestra, along with the discussion," he says. Daniels also previews the selections.

The concert opens with British composer Benjamin Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," which certainly is "not exclusively for young people," Daniels says. It is for everyone.

Based on a timeless and memorable theme by another British composer, Henry Purcell (1659-1695), it is written on several levels and gives a range of the technical and expressive capabilities of the instruments of the four families of the orchestra (woodwind, strings, brass and percussion). Written for orchestra and narrator, it is to be presented in its entirety.

Next is an excerpt called "Hungarian March" from "The Damnation of Faust" by French composer Hector Berlioz. It is the first of eight sketches in which Berlioz locates



David Daniels conducts the first Family Night concert, with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, on Wednesday, July 11, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival.

Faust in Hungary. He is observing the Hungarian army marching across the plain while he is in deep thought.

The piece was written in one night in Vienna. Berlioz based the march — originally a composition unto itself — on a Hungarian air, the Rakoczy theme, later including it in "Faust." Listen for the soft trumpet fanfare as it opens. Like Britten's piece, it uses a fugue form as it builds to a climax, or crescendo. At its debut in Hungary in 1846, the audience went wild.

THE WILLIAM TELL Overture by the Italian composer Rossini will immediately be recognized as the "Lone Ranger" theme. Daniels says, "It's a great overture with imaginative orchestration." He reveals this is one of the first orchestral pieces he heard.

The theme of Russian composer Mussorgsky's opera "Khovanshchina," from which the next piece "Per-

sian Dances" is excerpted, remains of current interest today. It is one of an epic tragedy of a country fighting to render itself free from its past. While it is a medieval past from which it is wrenching itself, and the main characters fight between themselves, challenging the young Czar Peter, the people of Russia suffer.

The dance appears in Act IV when Prince Khovansky signals his Persian slave girls to dance. "It starts out slow and languorous and then becomes kind of wild toward the end," Daniels says.

This opera was left uncompleted. Rimsky-Korsakov, a contemporary of Mussorgsky, finished and orchestrated it. Korsakov also taught Stravinsky, the Russian composer whose "Infernal Dance" from "The Firebird" follows. Consequently, Daniels says, "There are two Russian dances

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