

## Creative Living

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



Bob Sklar editor/591-2300

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## Renowned pianist to play with LSO

By Linda Ann Chomlin  
special writer

If you're looking for an evening of romance, as well as an evening that salutes the Stars and Stripes, the Livonia Symphony has the ticket for you.

Raise up the red, white and blue along with your spirits Friday, Feb. 16, with an evening of "Mostly American" music performed by the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Francesco Di Blasi.

Guest artist will be internationally renowned concert pianist David Syme. The West Bloomfield resident will perform Sergei Rachmaninoff's

piano Concert No. 2 in C minor (op. 18, 1901).

"Rachmaninoff speaks directly to the heart," Syme said during a telephone interview while recording a new album in Arizona.

"Although usually considered a modern composer, Rachmaninoff is a throwback to the romantic period in music."

Concert time is 8 p.m. in the James P. Carli Auditorium, Church Hill High School, 8900 Newburgh in Livonia.

INITIALLY, SYME performed the second concerto by Rachmaninoff with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at age 18. Since then, he has

appeared an additional eight times with the DSO.

"That piece is extremely extroverted, very sensual, very emotional and passionate."

"Rachmaninoff communicates directly to the audience with the second concerto. It is an emotional and passionate work. The audience can get very involved in it."

Syme, a graduate of the bachelor and master programs at the Juilliard School in New York City, completed his initial studies with Mischa Kottler.

HE SPENDS 100 days a year on the concert circuit. Besides the United States, Syme

and his piano performances have entertained audiences in England, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Spain, Scotland, Russia, Yugoslavia, Mexico and Canada.

His classical records total seven. On three of them, he performs with London's Royal Philharmonic.

HIS FIRST solo album, "Play it Again, Syme," was released Aug. 1, 1990, on Syme's label, JB Records.

Since then, radio shows from Dallas to Washington regularly include the musically diverse recording in their programming schedules.

From the "complete Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin to Bee-

thoven's "Für Elise," the album seeks to please a variety of music lovers.

"The album is a mixture of classical and popular. If I can play things accessible to more people, then I at least stand a chance of reaching them with the classical (music)."

Syme's second solo album, "Pumping Ivory," currently being recorded, mirrors the philosophy of "Play it Again, Syme." It is scheduled for release "in about two months."

Syme spends as much time on the radio talk shows as he does on the concert circuit, he said.

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David Syme  
personable showman

Art fair goes call Arlene Schultz "The Sunglass Lady" for her decorative line of ceramic sunglasses, featuring painted cactus and palm trees.

## Potter's wheel fashions contemporary clayworks

By Janice Tiger-Kramer  
special writer

IT'S NOT unusual for potter Arlene Schultz to pick bits of dried clay from the kitchen phone before making a call.

Between chauffeuring her two boys to hockey practice and running up and down basement stairs to work in her ceramics workshop, the Farmington Hills artist has little time to bother with the whereabouts of a little excess clay and plaster dust.

Schultz, who started doing ceramics just five years ago, often works a full seven- or eight-hour day at home, creating a contemporary and somewhat whimsical line of decorative and functional pottery.

Often called "The Sunglass Lady," Schultz is becoming well known among art fair goers for her unusual line of ornamental, pastel-colored sunglasses, which are decorated with palm trees and cacti.

Schultz also molds an affable and colorful snake with a pair of

*"I learned there's a big difference between being artistic and just throwing a pot."*

— Arlene Schultz  
potter

black sunglasses resting on its erect head.

"The sunglasses and the snake are cute and just unusual enough to be popular. People always comment on them," Schultz said.

BESIDES THE fun, decorative items, the artist also makes a functional and attractive line of bowls, cheese trays, tea and toast sets and vases. Her colorful mugs and baskets, often used as desk accessories, feature a raised palm tree or cactus.

The tea and toast set, which includes a matching plate and mug, come in a black and white geometric design, rose and black

check, or a series of triangles, dots and slashes of black, rose and white. Each glazed piece also is finished on the bottom for greater durability. Schultz's work, sold by the name Contemporary Clayworks, is priced at \$15 to \$120.

The potter appears in about eight juried art shows throughout the area every year. She also sells her work to shops and galleries in Florida, California and Massachusetts and to Escapades Inc. West Bloomfield and Route 10 Gallery in Farmington Hills.

Schultz, who also does acrylic painting and calligraphy, always has been adept with her hands. She signed up for a beginning ceramics

class at Oakland Community College's Royal Oak campus about four years ago simply because it looked like fun.

"A good friend of mine is a potter and it just looked like something I wanted to do," Schultz said. "Besides, it's one of the few things you can do where it's OK to be messy."

SCHULTZ QUICKLY learned that pottery making is harder than it looks.

To master her Wheel Throwing I class, the artist showed up at school every day until the walls of the cylinders were perfectly shaped. In fact, she finished all of the required work for the course in the first two weeks of school.

"I was determined to learn the technique. I never go into anything halfway," she said.

Schultz went on to take at least a dozen other ceramics classes and even repeated some to refine her wheel throwing technique or to work on special projects.

"I learned there's a big difference between being artistic and just throwing a pot," she said. She participated in the college's Pottery Market, the annual show of students' work. And she remembers watching buyers leave the sale with her ceramics in hand.

"I was in the customer service booth when I noticed someone carrying out my work. What a thrill to have a sale," Schultz said.

ANOTHER THRILL came just last year when the potter was invited to sell her work at Ann Arbor's annual State Street Art Fair. There, Schultz met buyers from the East Coast who since have placed two and three orders from her line of about 20 pieces.

Though, admittedly, wholesaling is something new to Schultz, she had quickly learned to pack, ship, meet deadlines and invoice her customers.

The artist next to me in Ann Arbor gave me a lot of advice and encouragement when I was approached by out of state buyers.

I thought, why not give it a try?" she said.

Hoping to expand her market, Schultz recently loaded her van with enough samples to show wholesale buyers at Beckman's Gift Show at Chicago's Merchandise Mart.

The artist's home workshop, with a potter's wheel, slab roller and kiln, includes everything she needs for a day's work. And since firing in the kiln takes up to seven hours, she has plenty of time to do paperwork, shipping or carpooling for 15-year-old David and 12-year-old Jeff. The boys and her husband, Jack, even help her set up at shows and stay at the weekend events to help out.

Schultz knows she has found a creative field with no limitations and she is grateful for her rapid success. But she believes everyone can find his or her niche.

"When I hear people say they envy artists, I always say, 'But I can't play the piano.' I think everybody has something to offer."

Arlene Schultz, who began doing ceramics five years ago, shapes the walls of a mug on a potter's wheel in her Farmington Hills home.



## Help find award-worthy artists; Blue House on track

NOTABLE NOTES from the creative calendar:

● Honored artistry — It's a distinctive award. But I'd still like to see more classic musicians nominated for the Farmington Area Arts Commission's Artist in Residence.

The award, carrying a cash prize and public display of the winner's work, is the Farmington area's top arts honor.

Past winners range from legendary photographer Joe Clark in 1976 to accomplished painter Lena Masara in 1990.

"I couldn't believe it could happen to me," says 1988 winner Gwen Tomkow, a nationally known watercolorist and vice chair of the Farmington Artists Club Foundation. "I'm

inited to death I won it. Three years later, people still call me Artist in Residence."

Adds Tomkow, who in 1977 shaped her skills under Edie Joppich, herself a former Artist in Residence: "When you achieve a consistency in your work, it gives you such a good feeling when other people perceive artistic value in it."

To nominate someone, call arts commissioner Debra Grant 476-2566.

● Historic blueprint — The people of Livonia are a bit closer to giving the Alexander Blue House a new lease on life as a historic setting for parties and meetings.

Four years ago, the 141-year-old, Italianate-style house was moved from the American House Retirement Residence site on Middlebelt to

Bob  
Sklar

Livonia's Greenwood Historical Village, at Eight Mile and Newburgh.

Today, the former home of Alexander Blue — once a equity auditor, township supervisor and justice of the peace — sports fresh paint and a graded lot.

Roof and chimney repairs, thanks to \$35,000 in funding from the city, continue. The Friends of Greenwood chipped in \$5,000 for the basement floor and furnace.

The Livonia Historical Society will cover the \$20,000 cost for architectural restoration drawings.

So far, members hope to see the two-story, 11-room house used as a reception hall for nearby Newburgh Church of the Greenwald. Period furnishings will reflect 1880s Livonia Township.

No timetable has been set for the \$200,000 phased restoration plan. So far, about \$100,000 has been raised, including major contributions from the city and Livonia's 16th District Court.

A Michigan Equity Grant doesn't look like an option any longer, given the way state government is going," said Sue Daniel, who chairs the Blue House restoration committee.

One idea, she said, is to invite the Junior League of Detroit to host an

interior design showcase at the Blue House.

Furniture stores would each adopt a room and furnish it. The public then would be invited to tour the throw-up house for a small donation.

● Canton's roots — Today, it's the Canton Historical Society Museum.

But the little red-brick building is fondly remembered as a one-room rural schoolhouse. Canton Center School was built in 1884 by Hargreave Sattlington.

The building's arches and raised brickwork may have been modeled after the nearby Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, built in 1882.

"Both buildings are typical of rural schoolhouses of that period," reads a state historic marker outside the museum, on Canton Center Road,

south of Cherry Hill.

The schoolhouse ceased as a grammar school in 1954. In 1977, the Plymouth Canton School District donated the building to the Canton Historical Society, which renovated it. It opened as a museum in 1982.

The adjacent Hart Berg Memorial Building displays large historical artifacts as cemetery stones, corner stones and farm implements. The open-air structure went up in 1954.

The same year, the historical society dedicated a time capsule on the museum's front lawn.

In commemoration of Canton's 150th birthday, the time capsule "was dedicated to the future citizens of this community." It's not to be opened until 2034.

Bob Sklar is assistant managing editor for special projects.