

OCC to host 'A Musical Adventure'

By Linda Ann Chomlin
special writer

Spend an evening on "A Musical Adventure" with the Music of the Masters Friday, Feb. 22, when Musica Viva Concerts-Bulck International Series 1990-91 presents the third program of five at the Smith Theater of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

Show time is 8 p.m. The program features the international concert violinist Hamao Fujiwara; pianist Katsurako Mikami; and flutist Ginka Gerova-Ortega.

Selections on the evening program include compositions from Bartok's "Rhapsody for Violin No. 1" and Brahms' "Sonata for Violin and Piano in D Minor."

"The performance is a very important part of my life," said Hamao Fujiwara during an interview from his Ann Arbor home.

FUJIWARA THRIVES on performing. His recital career has taken him to Western Europe, Japan, India and across the States from New York to Alaska. As recently as 10 days ago, he performed in Wash-

ington with the Theater Chamber Players of Kennedy Center.

"We played some Mozart in D minor," Fujiwara said. "I really had fun."

Fujiwara said he has been playing violin "almost 40 years."

Since fall 1988, Fujiwara has been a professor of violin at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor. Before that time, he taught at the Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music.

A dedicated violin instructor, Fujiwara said he "commuted between New York City and Ann Arbor for one year" to fulfill teaching obligations.

FUJIWARA SAID that Bela Bartok is the only 20th century composer on the program.

Born in Hungary in 1881, Bartok fled his beloved country in 1940 at the urging of friends who feared for his safety because of his strong moral stance.

He protested the performances of his music on Berlin radio and took a stand against fascism whenever possible. On the eve of World

War II, he came to the States and settled in New York City.

Bartok was positive what the world saw as authentic Hungarian music, romanticized by Brahms and Liszt, was essentially the music of the Gypsies.

The truth of the matter, he decided, was that Hungarian folk music lay amongst the peasants. He set out to find it. Traveling the countryside, Bartok became an authority on songs of the Danubian basin.

BARTOK FOUND authentic Hungarian folk music, based on ancient modes, nonsymmetrical rhythms and unfamiliar scales set him free. In fact, the term rhapsody as it pertains to musical compositions means "fragmentary song," and is mainly used to designate "free fantasies of a somewhat epic, heroic or national character."

Bartok's compositions consist of romantic and classic elements. A virtuosic pianist himself, Bartok is considered one of the masters of modern piano compositions.

Pianist Katsurako Mikami, also featured on the program, won both the Marguerite Long International



Hamao Fujiwara
violinist



Katsurako Mikami
pianist



Ginka Gerova-Ortega
flutist

Competition in Paris and the National Competition in Tokyo. She attended the Toho School of Music, the Paris Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School in New York City. Mikami records for Columbia and Musica Magna Records.

BULGARIAN FLUTIST Ginka

Gerova-Ortega, from Bloomfield Hills, will perform along with Fujiwara and Mikami. Gerova-Ortega debuted as a flutist at Carnegie Hall Concert in 1983. She is the artistic director of the "Musica Viva" concerts.

The 1990-91 series of "Musica Viva" concerts are sponsored by

Bulck, Oakland Community College, Michigan Duo for the Arts and the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Tickets for "A Musical Adventure" are \$15 (students and seniors, \$10). Tickets include a free afterglow. Call 471-7700.

International pianist to perform with LSO

Continued from Page 1

"WHAT I'm doing is unique because it includes a lot of radio talk shows where I perform a blend of musical styles from my home. Beginning Thursday, Feb. 21, on WCAR, I'll be hosting a music-talk

clarification

In recent stories about the restored balustrade at the Farmington Historical Museum, the breakdown of the Questers' contribution toward the \$6,000 expense was not precise. The International Organization of Questers contributed a \$3,000 grant and the Michigan Organization of Questers a \$2,000 grant. The Farmington Questers chapter, which applied for each of these grants, chipped in \$1,050, raised at an antiquities auction.

These combined Questers funding sources produced the \$6,000 needed to restore the balustrade.

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A HIGHLIGHT of the "Mostly American" evening is "Grand Canyon Suite" by Ferde Grofe.

It includes a treat for the eyes as well as the ear, with an accompanying slide show of one of the natural wonders of the world.

An interesting aside: Grofe was jazz musician Paul Whiteman's arranger.

Grofe produced the orchestral arrangement for the first performance in 1924 of the Whiteman-commissioned "Rhapsody in Blue," written by George Gershwin.

Other selections for the program are American composer Samuel Barber's "Essay No. 2 for Orchestra," and favorite musical selections of Victor Herbert.

A TRULY heartfelt selection on the "Mostly American" program is Leonard Bernstein's "Overture to Candide." It was chosen especially by conductor Francesco Di Biasi, who toured with Bernstein.

During a November concert by the Livonia Symphony after Bernstein's death, Di Biasi included a tribute to his friend by playing as an encore

"one of Lenny's most favorite pieces, a march, the third movement from Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony, 'Pathétique.'"

Bernstein was the first American-born musical director of the New York Philharmonic. At the time, he was the youngest musical director appointed to this post. Bernstein's compositions include the spectacular music of "West Side

Story," written in 1957. The selection "Candide" was written one year before Bernstein wrote "West Side Story."

Tickets for the "Mostly American" concert are \$9 and \$5 for seniors and students. They will be available at the door.

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