

Creative Living

Bob Sklar editor/591-2300

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



Thursday, March 14, 1991 O&E

(F1E)

Come to the Cabaret for music and art

By Linda Ann Chomin
Special writer

Whether you're searching for a way to beat the mid-winter Michigan blues, or simply longing to hear tunes by Irving Berlin as well as Sinatra songs performed in the style of an old-fashioned band concert, a ticket to the Spring Cabaret in Garden City could be the answer.

The Garden City Fine Arts Association, in conjunction with Schoolcraft College, hosts an evening of music Thursday, March 21.

The 48-member Schoolcraft College Wind Ensemble, with music director Victor Bordo, will play 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Radcliff Center in Garden City. Visual arts and refreshments will also help to cheer you out of your cabin fever.

"The cabaret is being sponsored by the Garden City Fine Arts Association and Schoolcraft College to provide the communi-

ty an evening of performing, visual arts and refreshments," said Norma McQueen, GCFAA president and director of The Art Gallery in Garden City.

She is the driving force and the behind-the-scenes producer of the visual and performing arts evening of entertainment, Spring Cabaret.

"ART WILL be displayed around the walls of the auditorium, so it will be both a visual and performing event," McQueen said.

"Refreshments will be provided by the Curry Arts Department at Schoolcraft College. There will be cabaret seating at tables for eight."

"The ensemble has existed since 1977," said Victor Bordo, director of the Schoolcraft College Wind Ensemble. "It consists of piccolo, flutes, bassoon, clarinet, saxophones, trumpet, French horn, trombones, baritone tuba, and percussion."

This is Bordo's second year as director of the wind ensemble and 35th year in music education. He also is director of bands and chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Troy High School. He received his bachelor of arts and master in music education degrees from Wayne State University.

Guest artist for the evening is Jay Young III, first trombone for the ensemble. Young will be the featured soloist for the selection, "Dramatic Essay for Solo Trumpet and Band" by Clifton Williams.

"He's an outstanding player," Bordo said. "It's always a good decision to feature Jay as a soloist."

ALONG WITH a tribute to Irving Berlin, Bordo said songs from "Sinatra in Concert" are scheduled for the cabaret program "New York, New York," "It Was a Very Good Year," "The Lady is a Tramp," and the standard Sinatra signature song, "My Way."

will be featured in a medley of songs made famous by Frank Sinatra.

A tribute to Irving Berlin concludes the cabaret concert with "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody" and "This is the Army, Mr. Jones."

The final Berlin composition, "God Bless America," will end the evening's upbeat program in patriotic style.

The concert is made possible in part by Norma McQueen's driving ambition to "enhance the cultural aspect of the community," together with the sponsorship by Schoolcraft College and by a seed grant from the Garden City Arts and Entertainment Committee.

"This isn't a fund-raiser," McQueen said. "However, money from ticket sales will be sufficient to repay the grant, like a loan. If there's sufficient response, we'll have more of these."

MEMBERS OF the Arts Association will act as ushers for the concert.

"The Garden City Fine Arts Association has been very active since its inception in 1982, stimulating cultural events in the community," McQueen said. "Cheese, crackers, fruits, vegetables and dip along with coffee, tea and sparkling cider will be served by members of the Garden City Fine Arts Association during intermission."

Tickets for the "Spring Cabaret" are \$9. Seating is limited.

Tickets can be bought at these local locations: Tales and Tapes Bookstore, Master's Cards and Gifts, The Art Gallery, Maplewood Community Center, the Garden City Chamber of Commerce. They also are available through members of the Garden City Fine Arts Association.

Please turn to Page 2



Tiffany Clemons, 13, of Westland, performs the role of Dr. Coppelius's Scottish doll, Beck Greene of Canton Township is cast in the role of Dr. Coppelius.

Magical dolls dance to life in 'Coppelia'

By Linda Ann Chomin
Special writer

MAGICAL DOLLS steal your heart, taking center stage as the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company performs the romantic comedy, "Coppelia," Saturday, March 16.

Curtain time is 2 and 7:30 p.m. in the Plymouth-Canton High School Little Theatre, 8415 N. Canton Center Road, Canton Township.

"This is the company's first production of 'Coppelia,'" said Dawn Greene, artistic director.

The original performance of "Coppelia" took place in Paris on May 25, 1870, danced to a musical score written by the French composer Leo Delibes.

Dancing the role of Swanilda, who is jealous of the mechanical doll named Coppelia, is Dawnnell Dryja. Michael Fienagans dances the male lead, the role of Franz, Swanilda's love interest. Beck Greene creates the role of Dr. Coppelius, the darkly comic

dollmaker. Tiffany Natalini is cast as the Coppelia doll.

THE MAGICAL story of Coppelia weaves its way into your heart as two immature lovers, Swanilda and Franz, spar and play out their silly games.

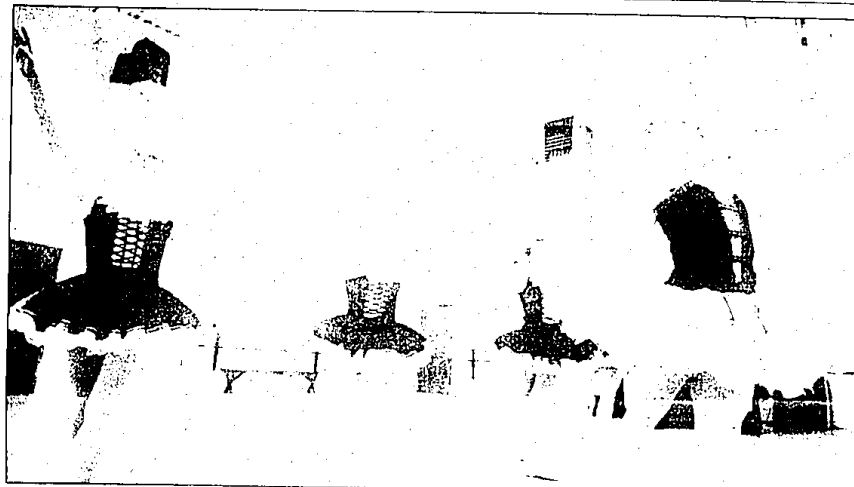
Franz is a flirt. The iron-willed Swanilda amuses Franz but he fails to take her seriously.

Dr. Coppelius is a maker of dolls, in particular, Coppelia. As Franz falls in love with Coppelia, Swanilda schemes to win his love.

"THERE ARE 35 dancers in our 'Coppelia,'" Greene said. "We have about 50 members in the full company."

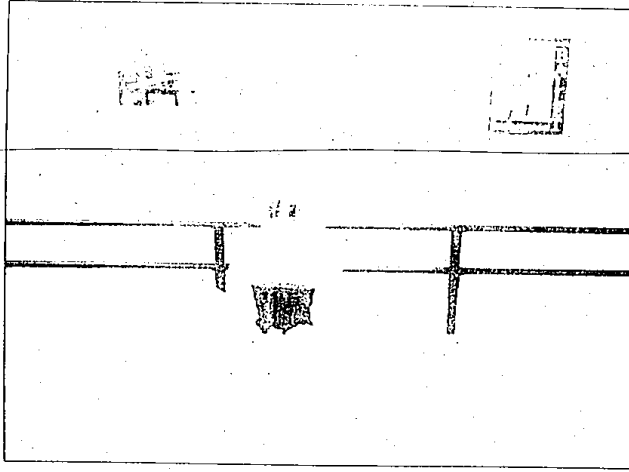
Greene, a ballet instructor for 20 years, teaches ballet at Joanne's Dance Extension in Plymouth. She serves on the executive board of the Cecchetti Council of America. Arthur Saint-Leon created the original choreography for the

Please turn to Page 2



Dawnnell Dryja (foreground), 14, of Canton performs the lead female role of Swanilda in "Coppelia." Behind her, from left, are Swanilda's friends, June Dryja of Canton, assistant ballet

company director; Dylann Stokes, 13, of Wayne; and Storme Sundberg, 14, of Westland.



Left: Warming up at the barre before a rehearsal of "Coppelia," as performed by the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company, is female lead Dawnnell Dryja, 14, of Canton, who plays Swanilda.

Staff photos
by
Jim Jagdtfeld

Symphony marks milestone; restoration shows resolve

ARTSY INTERLUDES

It makes a special kind of music.

And on the 45th anniversary of its founding, I applaud the Plymouth Symphony.

Our community symphonies give music students, music teachers and music lovers the golden opportunity to showcase their diverse skills while working alongside more experienced musicians.

Perfection is their elusive keynote as they strike up the music to blend their string, wind, brass and percussion instruments into a captivating orchestral sound.

As a highlight of its 1990-91 season, the Plymouth Symphony, under Russell Reed's direction, will present a Solid Gold Pop Concert at 8

p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 16-17, at Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth.

The dinner concert will let the community salute, as well as support, the symphony.

Make no mistake about it. The concert will benefit the PBO, facing the loss of a \$6,000 Michigan Council for the Arts grant in the wake of Gov. Engler's state-spending crack-down. Each concert costs roughly \$10,000.

Concert tickets, which include gourmet coffees and desserts, are \$25. Preconcert dinner tickets are \$15 with the purchase of a concert ticket. For reservations, call Fox Hills 453-7272.

Don't think symphony members expect a reforming bailout while continuing to reap full pay. Veteran cellists Louise Bradley and Edith



Bob Sklar

who... donate their talents this year.

"I'm glad to have the orchestra to play in," she told the observer. "I worry about not having an orchestra. The cello's been my life."

Concert programs vary but the community symphony's basic mission is very predictable: to bring the wonders of classical music to the people.

Take it from John Willyard, who has poured sweat and tears into the past 11 years of bringing the Plymouth Symphony back to its original form.

Don't undertake a project like this lightly if you're not prepared for years of hard work. An automotive engineer by day, Willyard has devoted many evenings and weekends to restoring the 19th-century character to his Farmington Hills house.

A state historic site awaiting a state historic marker, the John G. Willyard home, as Willyard calls it, sits perched on a rise in a historic area northwest of 13 Mile and Drake.

A meticulous researcher and stickler for historical accuracy, Willyard has logged an amazing amount of the rough restoration himself, tearing down the stone porch and

replacing the windows and the original floor beams and woodwork.

You must get rid of everything not original to find what was original," Willyard told the Farmington Historical Society Feb. 27, recounting the story behind his resolve.

Willyard not only has prepared a 67-page analysis documenting early architecture but also tracing early ownership of his two-story home.

His probing revealed that John G. Willyard bought the original 160 acres from Zelman and Milton Pettibone for \$150 in 1831. Two years before, the Pettibones bought the site from the U.S. government for \$200. The 1831 sales price shows the Pettibones made only modest improvement.

Willyard found the house's Federal-style construction windows and the original floor beams and woodwork.

Willyard said the house is a fine example of early architecture. Two later sales including such steps improve.

Citing state tax reports, Willyard showed the site underwent no meaningful change in market value, and thus no major development between 1841 and 1940, signaling the house predates that era.

The records clearly indicate that the house was built sometime between 1831-35, timing which is in complete agreement with style and construction techniques evident in the house. With a confirmed date, Willyard can proceed.

Bob Sklar is assistant manager of a local business and a frequent contributor to the Farmington Observer.