

MOT to stage Mozart's 'The Magic Flute'

The culmination of "Mozart Magic in Motor City" comes April 27, May 1, 3 and 4 with Michigan Opera Theatre's production of Mozart's "The Magic Flute" (Die Zauberflöte) at the Detroit Masonic Temple Theatre.

Presented in honor of the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death in 1791, this production of the composer's final operatic masterpiece features the costumes and settings of English artist David Hockney, originally designed for the Glyndebourne Festival Opera, England. Ford Motor Co., MOT's largest corporate contributor, has underwritten the production.

This production is the finale of three consecutive years of Mozart opera programming by Michigan Opera Theatre in anticipation of the Mozart bicentennial, said David DiChiera, MOT founder and general director.

Mozart's "The Magic Flute" is the second production of MOT's fifth annual Spring Grand Opera Series at the Masonic Temple. It will be sung in the Andrew Porter English translation and will feature English surtitles simultaneously projected above the stage for increased understanding.

Jay Lesenger, former director of the University of Michigan School of Music Opera Theatre, will stage the production.

The ensemble of vocal stars features soprano Maureen O'Flynn as Pamina, Grosse Pointe native Elizabeth Parcels sings the role of the Queen of the Night.

Following their performances as the three nymphs in the just-ended "Ariadne auf Naxos," three local singers return to sing "Three Ladies" in "The Magic Flute": soprano Laura Lampert of Ann Arbor, mezzo-soprano Terese Fedea of Lincoln Park, and mezzo-soprano Kathleen Segar of Ann Arbor.

Other performers include tenor Walter Macnell and baritone David Malls.

Ara Berberian returns as the wise sage Sarastro. The Metropolitan Opera baritone now lives in Southfield. He continues to perform regularly at the Metropolitan Opera, where he has been featured in 30 operas, appearing in many "Live from the Met" broadcasts.

Andrew Porter's English translation of the role of Moosetato, following his debut as the dancing master in "Ariadne auf Naxos."

MOT Young Artist Apprentice Gina Lettinger of Ann Arbor portrays Papageno. Grosse Pointe students Brendan Walsh, John Skinner and Liam Ryan sing the roles of the three Fairies.

spired by freemasonry, Mozart himself had joined an order that preached the spirit of universal brotherhood.

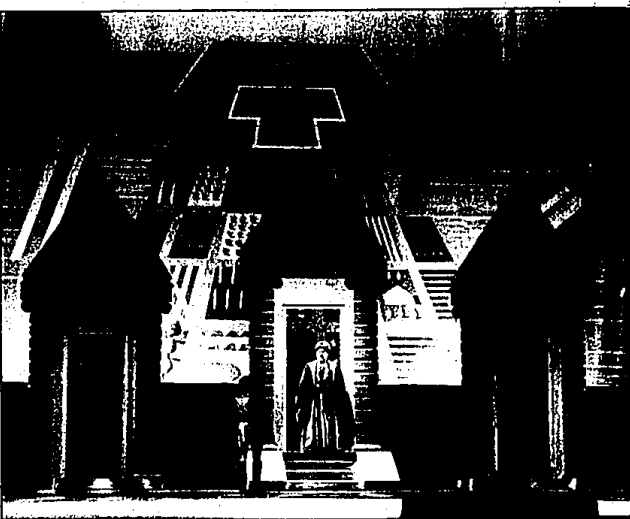
With text by the actor (and manager of a small theater) Johann Emanuel Schikaneder, who asked Mozart to compose the work, this "singspiel" or German operetta, incorporates both song and spoken dialogue.

Barely a month after the Vienna premiere, Mozart died. Modern audiences have become acquainted with the composer's life as told through the Tony Award-winning play and Oscar winning-movie "Amadeus," written by Peter Schaffer, and with the opera through Ingmar Bergman's film of the same name.

"Mozart Magic" features MOT's premier social fund-raising event, the Opera Ball, Friday, May 3 at The Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. Set around the theme of Mozart's era, the 1991 Opera Ball features traditional Viennese cuisine, period dancing by the Madame Cadillac Dancers, and entertainment by the orchestra of presidents and royalty, the Lester Lanin Orchestra. For reservations: 874-7850.

MOT offers an informative and entertaining lecture and buffet dinner before the Wednesday, May 1 performance of "The Magic Flute." The social affair will be at 6 p.m. in the Crystal Ballroom of the Masonic Temple. Music lecturer James Huntley will speak. Cost is \$20 per person call 874-7850 for reservations.

For ticket information about "The Magic Flute," call 874-SING.



Mozart's classic opera, "The Magic Flute," is coming to Detroit's Masonic Temple. Sets and costumes are by internationally acclaimed British artist David Hockney.

Book fare: flowers, rocks, plants

From the garden bookshelf:

- "Great Flower Books 1700-1900," Sir Sacheverell Sitwell and Wilfred Blunt, Atlantic Monthly Press (\$65), a bibliographical record of two centuries of finely illustrated flower books, presents a collection of prints by outstanding artists of the day.
- More than 750 illustrated flower books are listed, the color plates are well-chosen and the explanations concerning each one are fascinating.
- Descriptions of the techniques of plant and flower printmaking (and the illustrations) make the reader more appreciative of the diligence required to produce fine results.
- This beautifully produced volume is ideal for all who are interested in antique books whether from a historical or artistic point of view. A treasure.
- "Cuttings from a Rock Garden," H. Lancelotti Foster and Laurie Louise Foster, Atlantic Monthly Press (\$39.95), details the authors' experiences in creating their gardens of wild flowers and alpine plants at Millstream, Connecticut.
- Many rock garden enthusiasts will recognize these authors and appreciate

den is, though, plants can be found to fill it satisfactorily; it is one of the aims of this book to show how this may be done," he writes about gardens older or new.

Descriptions of more than 2,000 species of perennials are given, including growing requirements, time of bloom and color.

- Thomas is also the author of "Plants for Ground-Cover," Sagapress/Timber Press (\$26.95), an excellent companion to the perennial classics.
- Thomas, a renowned plantsman, photographer, artist and author, calls this volume a reference book for young and old.
- He covers the proper way to choose and care for suitable ground-cover plants and how to create gardens that require less maintenance, using nature's offerings, such as leaves.
- He recognizes the value of leaves as mulches for controlling weeds and for enriching the soil.
- Shrubs, climbing plants, conifers, herbaceous plants, grasses, rushes and ferns are included, as well as ideas for landscaping large areas such as those around municipal buildings and factories.
- "Gardening on the Heart,"

Carol Olwell, Antelope Island Press (\$18.95), consists of interviews with 21 gardeners, young and old, who tell why they garden.

Their reasons are diverse. We meet a former psychiatric, occupational therapist who began gardening at the age of 68, an artist with a wonderful sense of whimsy, a high-way landscaper — those who garden for the pure joy of it — vegetable gardeners and people who help others learn and cope. This is an inspiring account of the pleasures of gardening.

For tree lovers interested in learning some little-known facts about trees, "Red Oaks and Black Birches," Rebecca Rupp, Garden Way (\$18.95 cloth, \$10.94 soft), will be a delight.

The author is quite knowledgeable about the subject and that comes across in the way she cleverly imparts information. A nice way to get to know a favorite tree a bit better and to become acquainted with others.

Marty Figley is a certified master gardener, based in Birmingham. "Gardener's book nook" runs periodically.

what they are, it is inevitable that mass appeal will become a more significant factor in musical programming.

FEW DEDICATED classical listeners could find fault with an all-Mozart program.

Thomas Kuras, pianist and music director of this series, provided us with his customary samples of broad knowledge and expertise. The other musicians are violinists Victoria Halton and Mary Richards and cellist Paul Willington. Compared to a more established group, this one has technical limitations which occasionally show up. This, however, is more than made up by the sense of stylistic integrity and a sincere effort to penetrate beyond the music's exterior layer.

THE KRONOS String Quartet, my personal taste not withstanding, is a sincere and dedicated group. In addition to the standard string instruments, its sounds are augmented by electrical mixing and amplification and the use of prepared tapes. I wasn't familiar with a single one of the six composers featured, which is a most uncomfortable feeling for a critic.

Other composers on this program were: Darius Milhaud, Maurice Strakosky, Hamza El Din, Sudan, John Zorn, U.S.; Peter Schullhorpe, Australia; and Jack Body, New Zealand. The program was followed by a string of cheers and encores — a fun conclusion to this inspired series.

Kronos, Chamberworks both veer from tradition

By Avigdor Zorump
Special writer

This is a time of season-ending concerts. Among those giving their seasonal swan song last week were Chamberworks and the Chamber Music Society of Detroit.

The former, which caters to a smaller audience, had to expand its schedule, as the limited space at the Belian Art Center wasn't enough to accommodate all listeners.

The concert, which was scheduled for Friday, offered another performance on Thursday, which I attended. This made it possible for me to see the Kronos Quartet on CMS on Friday at Orchestra Hall. Both events ventured beyond their customary domains.

Chamberworks, which does mostly baroque music, offered an all-Mozart program, the second one this season, which marks the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death.

CMS, known for presenting traditional classical chamber repertoire, hosted a group that specializes in contemporary avant garde music and entertainment from around the world.

It shouldn't be difficult to guess which music was closer to my personal taste, which is admittedly subjective. It is a fact, however, that Kronos Quartet attracted a larger audience than is normally present even when leading chamber groups with the traditional repertoire are featured.

Allocations for the arts being

ate their contribution to this form of gardening.

He describes more than 100 genres suitable for all types of rock garden conditions and explains their needs. He details the history of many of them and relates experiences as they were searched for and found.

As the narrative unfolds, she tells what worked and what didn't, how success was achieved in the ever-evolving garden. This charming book will guide those with small or large areas for planting.

- "Perennial Garden Plants," Graham Stuart Thomas, Sagapress/Timber Press (\$39.95), needs to be in the garden libraries throughout the world. In this third edition, Thomas has added many plants and included U.S. hardiness zones.
- In the first part (a book in itself), he gives his views on many aspects of gardening.
- "Wherever and whatever the gar-

Choral team's 'Requiem' a triumph

By Linda Ann Chemlin
Special writer

Beautiful instrumental strains accompanied the Plymouth Oratorio Society's performance of Johannes Brahms' "A German Requiem, Op. 45" at First United Methodist Church in Plymouth Sunday.

The Michigan Sinfonietta (formerly the Ann Arbor Chamber Orchestra) provided the instrumental accompaniment.

Baritone John Stewart of Plymouth and soprano Carolyn Pratt of

review

Minnesota were featured soloists for the triumphant evening.

Stewart's talent was showcased in the third movement of the "Requiem," as he pulled notes from the very depths of his soul.

Perhaps the best known movement of Brahms' "Requiem" is "How lovely is thy dwelling place."

Pratt sang the soprano aria of the fifth movement, which Brahms wrote in tribute to his mother after her death in 1865.

Pratt, a professional singer in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, sang brightly with total control. The last movement of the "Requiem" ended gloriously with nearly 90 voices uplifted with hope for the living.

The seven movements of Brahms' "A German Requiem" swiftly sailed through the evening, an evening of triumph that concluded the fifth season of the community chorus, "all united by a love and commitment to great choral music."

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Learn about the recorder

A workshop in recorders and dance will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at Kingswood School, 509 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

Louise Austin will give recorder

workshops and Harriet Berg will conduct dance workshops. Ensemble performances will also be featured.

For information, call Nina Swanson, 644-7059.

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