Entertainment

Upbeat

Concert band is entertaining

FOR "HI Neighbor," some of the musicians put down their instru-ments and sing. When the song ends, everyone stands up, tips their caps and greets the audience with an en-thusiastic "hi."

thusiastle "hl."
During a "Testimonial to Liberty," a band member reads excepts from the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address, while the band plays patriotic songs.

Baliroom dancers Belle Kukurka and Ron Sherman of Dearborn Heights add another dimension to concerts, dancling the samba to a Latin American tune.

"We've been dancing together for eight years," said Belle of her particular to the samba to a concert. We ment Steve, and he asked us if we would dance at the concerts. We said sure. We've won lots of baliroom dancing contests throughout the metropolitan Detroit area. We enjoy it."

WOLOSON'S DAUGHTERS, Ma-ria, Gloria, and Susana play in the band, and his wife, Ines is the music librarian.

The youngest member is drum so-losist, 7-year-old Thaddeus Dixon of Detroit. The oldest is 88-year-old Tony Mastrantonio of Clarkston who

Tony Mastrantonio of Clarkston who plays clarinet.
Dixon isn't the first young musician to play in the band. Dennis Carter of Hamtramck, who plays flute, Joined when he was in seventh grade. Last year, he won first place in WQRS "Classics in the Making".

in WQRS "Classies in the Making", competition. In June be graduated from Hamtramck High School, and will be attending college this fail. "The band has people from all walks of life," said Frank Lozano of Livonia. "All the people have this energy. It's a tremendous outlet, it helps you stay healthy." Most of the musiclans played high school and college bands and orchestras. About 35 are profession-



Steven Wolo-son conducts the 52-member Heritage Concert Band as to the Ball-game" at the Livonia City

Recently retired as a principal with the Detroit School System, Lozano has been a band member for about eight years.

"I REALLY like working with the group. It's a community effort. We get a chance to nuwind, and are able to help other musiciants. I've always been an educator, I like to help educate people. We do that by helping each other, and by playing a variety of music at our concerts."

The band's repertoire spans the world — Polish, Italian, German, Ukrainian, Irish and Spanish. Music Club, the band was reorganized in May 1984 by Woleson and 14 musicians into the Hamtramck Concert Band.

"Then we were asked to play at the Italian American Festival at Harl Plaza," said Woleson.

On Sept. 19, 1987, the band played for Pope John Paul II when he visited Hamtramck.

"Frank Lozano, one of our members was the principal of Webster

Elementary School in a Hispanic neighborhood of Detroit and wanted us to play a concert at his school. We added some Spanish numbers." Because of the diversity, the band started being known as the Ham-tramck Heritage Concert Band.

"Then, we got down to only two band members living in Hamtramek, so we we evolved into the Heritage Concert Band," said Woloson. "We're making a big effort to be an 'all-type' band." "We play all kinds of music, ethnic, pop, jazz."



Thaddeus Dixon plays his solo, accompanied by the

Young drummer is on a roll

By Keely Wygonik stalf writer

During the concert at Livonia Mall, Thaddeus Dixon quirms in his seat and fidgets just like any 7-year-old tho would rather be outside playing on a sunny Sunday

iernoon.

But when Heritage Concert Band conductor Steven oloson turns to the audience and says, "and now I'd to you to meet our guest soloist..." Thaddeus snaps attention.

to attention.

He walks to his drum set, nods to Woloson and steals
the show as he plays the percussion solo, "High Hat" by
Paul Yoder, accompanied by the 52-member band,
"The thing that's really puzzling," said his father,
Gus, "is he doesn't seem ready, but when the time
comes to play, he takes care of business."

DIXON IS extraordinary. In Novi, he beat drummers age 16 and younger, to win the 1990-91 regional in a

contest sponsored by the American Guild of Music. Then he won the 1991 national competition in Chicago.

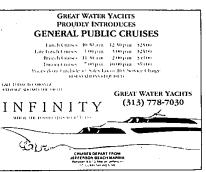
He takes his music serious and enter the making t

"THEN WE went to Toys 'R' Us and bought him a drum set. He kept playing it. We thought he was serious and bought him a professional drum set. By then his toy set was held together with tape."



The Heritage Dancers, Ron Sherman and Belle Kukurka dance the samba while the Heritage Concert Band plays "Brazil" in

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