

## upcoming things to do

**Deadline for the Upcoming entertainment calendar is three weeks ahead of publication. Send items to be considered for publication to:**

**to: Keely Wagonik, Entertainment Editor, The Observer & Eccentric, 38251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.**

### ● BIRMINGHAM MUSICALS

The Birmingham Musicals will begin its 66th season with a program dedicated to United Nations Day, 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10 at the Community Center, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Anna Speck, soprano, and two new performing members, Matthew Schiebold, cellist and Jee Mee Kim, pianist will be featured. A tea will follow the program. For information call, 559-5284.

### ● ROCHESTER SYMPHONY

Rochester Symphony presents its first concert, 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 11 at Varner Hall on the Oakland University Campus in Rochester. The symphony, under the direction of James Hohmeyer will feature Leszek Bartkiewicz performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major. The other numbers to be performed are La Forza Del Destino Overture by Verdi and Symphony No. 2 (Romantic) by Howard Hanson. Season tickets are \$40 for five con-

certs, \$35 for students and senior citizens. Individual tickets are \$10. They are available at the door, Janet Varner on Main St., and Miller Mens

Store in the North Hill Shopping Plaza.

### ● SHERLOCK HOLMES

An Evening with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the father of Sherlock Holmes, Friday, Oct. 11 at Oakland Community College, Royal Oak Campus.

Lila R. Jones-Johnson Theatre, 739 S. Washington-Royal Oak. Tickets \$8 adults, \$6 students, senior citizens. Call 544-5588 for information.

## Cranbrook Music Guild marks 40th year

By Isabelle Smith  
staff writer

When the Cranbrook Music Guild celebrates its 40th birthday at a champagne buffet Saturday at Cranbrook House (following a 4 p.m. cameo opera performance by New York's Karlarud Opera Company), it will also be recapitulating its beginning — for it was "born" at a Birmingham dinner party in spring 1951.

A dinner guest and music buff, Dr. Mauria Grabout, was expounding the joys of New England's Berkshire Music Festival and the virtues of intimate chamber music performances to Mrs. David Ballestine and Mrs. Benjamin (Elizabeth) Brewster.

From that conversation followed in succession a "chat" with Henry Booth, a fund-raising choral performance at the school's Greek Theater, the formation of the Guild (with Brewster as first president), the offer of Cranbrook House Library as a concert site and the election of an organizing committee to present the first chamber music series. Formal programs and incorporations took place in early 1952.

The rest, as they say, is history.

SINCE THOSE early years (and programs featuring mostly Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians), the Cranbrook Guild has presented more than 200 concerts, hosted nearly a thousand artists (counting individual members of duos, trios, quartets and quintets) met countless planes,

helped salvage numerous damaged, wrinkled or dirty concert garments and poured uncountable gallons of tea, coffee and punch at its pre-concert, meet-the-artist receptions.

Twenty-plus-year-member and former president William Brashear said his work on the Guild Board has been "a labor of love." He finds it "amazing that in all of the hundreds of performances there have been so few mediocre ones," he said.

Brashear especially recalled "wonderful" programs by Gino Bachauer, Maurizio Pollini and the Beaux Arts Trio. He also clearly remembered a 1969's All-Messiaen program by the Duscha Quartet.

"It was not the most popular repertoire," he said, "but it was musically important. In fact, we heard this music before it was performed at Carnegie Hall."

CURRENT GUILD program chairman Ellie DeWolfe gloried in the guild's history of presenting artists who "are on the threshold."

She referred to the young William Doppmann, Ruth Laredo "before she was known outside Detroit," one of James Tocco's first big concerts and the Colorado Quartet and violinist Corey Cervoski.

"We had them before they had names," DeWolfe said. "We liked their audition tapes. Mike Redfield (another board member) seems to have a real ear for new talent. I like to think that I've acquired some of that, too."

Current guild president Mike Davis and Brashear both spoke with pride of the guild's scholarship program and the young artists it has nurtured. Among the group are violinist Ani Kafavian, sopranos Maria Ewing and Ashley Putnam, the Prism Quartet's Reginald Borik (saxophone) and William Doppmann.

BOARD MEMBER Gwen Forbes vividly remembered when the Guarneri Quartet played as a trio because the first violinist broke his arm.

Others remembered the mid-concert power failure when, after a brief pause, the program resumed by candlelight.

DeWolfe shuddered at the memory of the Steinway tuned sharp, and hostess chairwoman Camille Harbeck smiled as she recalled the quartet whose members all practiced separately and wanted completely soundproof rooms.

"I was frantically putting blankets over windows and stuffing towels under doors to muffle noise," she said with a laugh.

"We hope to expand and even upgrade our scholarship programs, and we hope to make even more area people aware of the wonderful treasure we have here," Davis said. "But — basically — we look forward to more of the same great music in a glorious setting."

Tickets for Saturday's program (\$25 for 4 p.m. opera performance, \$35 for 7 p.m. gala champagne buffet) may be ordered by calling 751-2435.

## On the Town

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

## HAUNTED HAYRIDES

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Offer good through October 31, 1991 including Saturday nights. Tax, tip, alcoholic beverages not included. Proof of October birthday required (driver's license, birth certificate). Not valid with any other promotion.



## SYMPHONY SHOWPLACE '91

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11 AM TO 7 PM

- Spectacular Tour of Designer Town Homes Decorated by Detroit's Finest Designers
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For ticket information, call (313) 562-1000, Ext. 265  
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**BOUNCEBACK WEEKEND**

HILTON SUITES-DETROIT/AUBURN HILLS

2300 Featherstone Road Auburn Hills, Michigan 48226 313-334-2222

You are cordially invited to attend

## Rhythm & Blues

in celebration of United Nations Day

Thursday, October 24, 1991  
6:45 p.m.

Oakland Community College/  
Orchard Ridge Campus-Smith Auditorium  
27055 Orchard Lake Road  
Farmington Hills

Featuring the metro area's top jazz performers:

**Ursula Walker/Buddy Budson Trio**  
**George Benson and Friends**  
**Norma Jean Bell and the All Stars**  
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a benefit performance for the  
Oakland County Center for Open Housing

Advance tickets: \$13 (\$15 at door)

Tickets available at Southfield City Hall  
main reception desk during business hours  
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For more information

OCCHO: 647-0575, Southfield Community Relations Dept: 354-4854

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