

# Chamber group has personality

The American Artists Series opened its new season Nov. 24. It drew a large audience, consisting of many regular listeners to Kingwood Auditorium, where this special series has been offered for the past 22 years.

To attract a steady audience, a chamber group needs to be more than just another group presenting some predictable material. A viable chamber group needs to have its own special personality. There is little doubt that the AAS overwhelmingly fulfills in this respect.

THE FACT that this group features mostly non-standard repertoire wouldn't be remarkable in itself.



**Avigdor Zoromp**

There are many obscure scores gathering dust in archives with little chance to see the light of day. Most such neglected works are in that state for good reason. It takes diligent research to find some treasures among these scores.

Joann Freeman, pianist and artistic director of this series, has been

providing us with the impressive fruits of such research for many seasons. The artistic excellence of this series is also assured by the steady nucleus of Detroit Symphony musicians who perform in it.

On this latest occasion, the participating DSO musicians consisted of violinists Linda Svedden Smith and Ronald Fischer, violist Hans Hollman, cellist John Thurman and principal DSO clarinet Theodore Olen.

THE WORKS performed were a Quintet for Clarinet and Strings by Arthur Bliss, Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano by Thea Musgrave and a Quintet for Flute and Strings by Dohnanyi.

To be sure, these names are not among my top choices of 20th century masters. This program, however, made a most convincing case for re-evaluating the significance of their musical contributions.

The Quintet by Bliss, written in the early '30s and dedicated to a leading English clarinet player, radiates with an unusual amount of brightness and cheer, which are seldom associated with this composer.

The intricate cross-rhythms in the final movement are an impressive tribute to this composer, as well as

the high capability of the musicians to get it across clearly and without a hitch.

THE TRIO by Musgrave is a most unusual case of an instrumental trio that describes a drama. Stylistically it is reminiscent of Debussy.

It illustrates a love rivalry between the characters Pierrot, Columbine and Harlequin, represented by the violin (Svedden-Smith), clarinet and piano, respectively.

Svedden-Smith and Olen would stand up whenever the role of their character would become dominant, and would move to the edge of the stage when it was Freeman's turn to dominate.

Maybe modern technology would provide pianos equipped with little motors to enable them to move around on such occasions — but the point was made effectively even under prevailing limitations.

THE SERENE and compelling nature of Dohnanyi's Quintet remained undiminished by a faulty entrance in the final movement, which required a restart.

The subdued conclusion of this work demonstrated that a program is capable of leaving its mark on the listeners even if it doesn't end with a bang.

The next program of this series will take place Jan. 12, and will consist of works by Henrik Crusell, John Knowles Paine, Malcolm Arnold, Rodolphe Kreutzer and Claude Arrieu. If you feel intimidated by these names, you aren't alone. I haven't heard most of these names either.



JIM RUDER/staff photographer

## Magic of Christmas

Over three dozen floral designers and display artists donated their time to create a fairytale world inside Meadow Brook Hall, the former home of Alfred G. and Matilda Dodge Wilson, founders of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Explore "The Magic of Christmas" at Meadow Brook Hall now through Dec. 15. Tickets \$8 on weekdays, \$8 weekends. Event proceeds go toward the maintenance and preservation of Meadow Brook Hall. Call 370-3140 for information.

## On the Town

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Machus  
**Sly Fox**  
presents a  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE  
"BACKSTAGE SLEUTHING"**

"A HILARIOUS  
EVENING OF MUSIC,  
MURDER & FUN!"

\$99 per couple  
includes  
5 course dinner,  
tax, gratuity &  
champagne toast

"Mystery Dinner  
Theatre at its Finest"

For information & reservations call 642-6900  
limited seating  
Ask about groups!  
725 S. Hunter • Birmingham

**BEST WESTERN LAPEER INN**

**A GET AWAY THAT'S NOT FAR AWAY**

**Rooms From \$49**  
- Kids 12 and Under, Stay Free -

- Indoor Pool/Whirlpool
- Indoor Waterfall
- Whirlpool Suites
- Heart Shape Jacuzzi Rooms
- Fun Center
- Rooms To Fit All Needs

**Your Choice Of One:**  
Fri. & Sat. = Sunday FREE or Sat. = Sunday @ 1/2 PRICE

On M-24 1 1/2 Miles North of I-69

**Best Western**  
**20% OFF ROOMS**  
**SUNDAY thru THURSDAY**  
Expires December 30, 1991  
For more information call:  
**(313) 667-9444**  
SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

*The Smell of Christmas*  
by  
**AROMATIQUE™**

The Smell of Christmas...A Holiday Tradition!  
This is a visual feast of cones, nuts, cinnamon sticks, richly scented wood chips and red berries, fragranced with the original citrus and spice scent available only from Aromatique.

THE  
**DANDY LION  
& COMPANY**

Holiday Store Hours  
effective Nov. 29, 1991  
Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Noon-5:00 p.m.  
Shipping available  
Visa, Mastercard and  
American Express  
are Welcome.

Rochester, MI 116 E. Fourth St. **650-8008**

**THE People Mover®**  
DETROIT IN MOTION  
PRESENTS

## SUNDAYS IN THE STATION WITH SANTA

Ever wonder how Santa gets around downtown—and where he goes—when his reindeer are taking a candy cane break?

Find out by hopping on board the Detroit People Mover and exiting at the Times Square Station any time between noon and 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 8 or December 15.

Santa loves to ride the People Mover, and he'll be coming to the Times Square Station on those two special Sunday afternoons in December to host a FREE holiday party that will include an exciting, behind-the-scenes tour of the People Mover's Control Center.

And you know where Santa is, fun and presents are always just a tweak of his nose away.

Santa's elves will greet you inside the People Mover's Times Square Station with the beginnings of a fun holiday party—free for the whole family—of caroling, balloons, caricature drawings and cider. You'll be taken on a tour of the Control Center, where all the movements of the People Mover cars are directed by computer and monitored on big screens and electronic maps.

Santa will arrive at the Control Center while you're there, and the jolly old man will have presents and holiday treats from the People Mover for every boy and girl...and even big boys and girls like you will receive tokens for a free ride on the People Mover.

**Noon to 4 p.m.**  
**Sundays, December 8 & 15**  
**Times Square Station**  
**For more information, call:**  
**962-RAIL**

Control Center tours (every half hour)  
Gifts from Santa  
A complimentary People Mover ride

Caricature drawings  
Caroling  
Balloons  
Hot cider  
Treats

The People Mover is owned and operated by the Detroit Transportation Corporation City of Detroit, Government of the State of Michigan