

'What are you doing New Year's Eve?'

FIRST NIGHT/ BIRMINGHAM '92

presented by

The Cultural Council of Birmingham/Bloomfield



New Year's Eve features arts fest

BIRMINGHAM IS HOSTING A New Year's Eve celebration, and you are invited. First Night/Birmingham, from 4 p.m. through midnight Dec. 31st, will take place in the heart of downtown Birmingham and spill over to nearby environs. It's close to home, it showcases some of Michigan's best artists, it offers something for everyone and interest group and costs less than you might pay to see a first-run film.

First Night began in Boston in 1978 when a group of artists and art lovers decided to ring in the new year with friends, families and neighbors. Since then, more than 75 North American cities have organized and pro-

duced their own First Nights.

The inaugural First Night/Birmingham, one year ago, was an overwhelming success. More than 6,000 people were entertained by 37 artists in 114 performances. Over 6,000 hearty souls sang, danced and held hands at the midnight countdown in Shain Park.

With a year's experience under their belts, committee members have planned an even more impressive evening with more sites, improved trafficking, shuttle bus transportation and a terrific grand finale.

WHAT: First Night/Birmingham is a celebration of the arts featuring some 45 professional individuals or groups who will perform at over a dozen sites. Focus

is on performance in a setting that is family oriented, safe and alcohol-free.

WHERE: The map on the next page shows the downtown venues plus shuttle bus routes to the YMC Seaholm High School, First United Presbyterian Church, First Methodist Church and the Village Players.

WHO: The event is organized by the Cultural Council of Birmingham/Bloomfield, with the help of the City of Birmingham, corporate sponsors and many area residents. These volunteers worked long hours selecting talent, soliciting funds, coordinating schedules

and tending to the myriad details involved in a venture this large.

WHEN: Performances begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. The celebration culminates with a laser light celebration in Shain Park at midnight.

HOW MUCH: At \$5 (or \$7 if purchased on Dec. 31), First Night/Birmingham has been designed as an entertainment buy of any year. Children under 5 years old are admitted free.

WHY: The event provides an alternative, non-alcoholic, all-family, affordable and fun way to celebrate New Year's Eve. It also showcases the depth of Michigan talent in the visual and performing arts.

It's showtime! Medley of artists on stage for First Night

Here's a sampling of performers ready to entertain you at First Night/Birmingham '92:

THE CHENILLE SISTERS, one of the hottest acts around, create a tight harmony and wacky humor. Their musical style, drawn from jazz, swing, folk and blues, is infused with contagious enthusiasm. Seaholm High School Auditorium: 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.

THE PRISM QUARTET, one of last year's most popular First Night acts, performs jazz-tinted classical music interpreted with saxophones and wind instruments. Electronics expand the range of this cutting-edge "cross-over" group to chamber or percussion ensemble, baroque orchestra, rock band or even a boys choir. St. James Episcopal Church Sanctuary: 8, 9, 10, 11 p.m.

Get spooned by JIMMY 'SPOON MAN' KREWS! In addition to performing bluegrass, country and rock & roll on spoons, Jimmy also plays forks, knives and a few audience members' arms and heads. Everyone gets into the act with washboards, blow jugs and silverware. The Community House, Upstairs: 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.

MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE performs Seymour Barab's opera "Little Red Riding Hood," an intriguing exercise in the art of creating illusions. The composer has updated the time period and diminished the frightening aspects for young children by letting them see the wolf first as a person who then, in front of the audience, becomes the beast. First Presbyterian Church, Knox Auditorium: 4, 5, 6 p.m.

Catch a glimpse of the New Kids in the NEW KIDS OF TROY, that is, as they lip-synch and mimic the dances of the New Kids on the Block right down to the last high-stepping kick. YMCA: 5, 6, 7, 8 p.m. They are followed by a teen dance, featuring A Solid Gold Sound DJ, at the YMCA from 8:30-11:30 p.m.



Cheryl Dawdy, Grace Morand, Connie Huber — the Chenille Sisters

ST. DUNSTON'S THEATRE GUILD'S "My Fair Lady" sold out last summer when it played five nights in Cranbrook's outdoor Greek Theatre. First Night audiences can see a 14-hour adaptation featuring a cast of 60, including live musicians. Seaholm High School Auditorium: 4, 6 p.m.

An accomplished harpist and vocalist, ONITA SANDERS is equally at home with baroque, classical, pop, folk, blues and jazz. She has performed with such diverse acts as The Four Tops, Tony Bennett and Jerome Hines. See her at the First Baptist Church, Sanctuary: 9, 10, 11 p.m.

You may remember Marilyn O'Connor Miller as Mona from WXYZ-TV's "Hot Fudge Show." The whole family can enjoy her puppetry (she studied with Jim Henson), storytelling and imaginative use of ethnic accents, dialects and character voices. Her PUPPET CONNECTION is a good choice while you're keeping the kids up for the midnight celebration. Allen House: 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.

The four-member **SONG OF THE LAKES** will have you foot-tapping and hand-clapping when they dance the jig and sing their "salt-water" ballads celebrating the Great Lakes. The Community House Club Room: 4:30, 5:30, 8, 9, 10, 11 p.m.

THE DETROIT WOODWIND QUINTETT is this area's longest continually existing (since 1969) woodwind chamber group. The quintet features Deborah Scott Katz, flute; Sylvia Starkman, oboe; Linda Borushko, clarinet; Elizabeth Wilson, bassoon; and Ernestine Barnes, horn. First Church of Christ, Scientist, Auditorium: 7, 8 p.m.

Other First Night performers include the following (check schedule for times and locations):

A COMPANY OF DANCERS: Contemporary dance.

A REASONABLE FACSIMILE: Folk music of the Renaissance.

AME: Storytelling with song by Ami Jackson.

CASEY & JACK: Live performance of children's music.

CHIAUTAUQU EXPRESS: Folk and modern music, Native American stories.

CHRIS KASE QUARTET: Original modern jazz.

CRAZY RICHARD THE MADD JUGGLER: Juggling with a wild twist.

DETROIT RHYTHMIC GYMNASICS: Olympic gymnastics.

DMITRI TARAKHOVSKI & ALEXEY VAIS: Classical piano and voice.

FRED THE SMOOCH: Nine-foot comedy puppet.

JOHN CANNON: Organ music from Bach to fabulous gospel.

JONATHAN'S FAMILY FUN SHOW: Magic and comedy.

MARY JO DISLER: Classical guitar.

MATTHEW STEPHAN: Schiebel Classical cello.

NICOLAS VAN KRUDT BEYOND THE LAST DOG: Play "Wacky Croquet."

OUR LADY'S MADRIGAL SINGERS: Victorian songs.

QTM: Original rap and dance.

RAY KAMALAY & HIS RED HOT PEPPERS: Historic and original swing and jazz.

SHILIN ZHOU: Classical Chinese music.

THE EXECUTIVES: Listen and dance to jazz music.

THE HARMONAIRES: Gospel choir.



Jimmy "Spoon Man" Krebs

THE PUPPET PLACE TOURING THEATRE: Emmy Award-winning puppet theatre.

THE STORYTELLERS: Storytelling and world music.

THE VOLEBEATS: Country music with vocals.

TODAY'S BRASS QUINTETT: Brass quintet.

VICTOR CHROSTOWSKI: Square dance with caller.

VILLAGE PLAYERS OF BIRMINGHAM: The first three performances are excerpts from "The Wizard of Oz." The last three are an adult musical medley from "Chicago."

VLADIMIR KARMINSKI: Classical pianist.

TIPS to make your evening:

TIP: Use the schedule and map on the next page to plan your evening.

You can't see everything, so pick your favorites and determine an appropriate route. Also, plan alternatives in case your first choices are filled. But be flexible — the whole idea is to have fun.

WHAT TO WEAR: Wear comfortable clothes, walking shoes or boots, and dress in layers. Few locations can provide coat racks, so be prepared to hold your coats during performances. You'll be outdoors as you walk between performances, during the midnight countdown in Shain Park and possibly waiting in line to get into some busy venues.

WHERE TO PARK: Parking will be free in all Birmingham parking structures and city lots from 3:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. There are 3,900 parking spaces in city lots and covered parking, but considering the size of the crowd expected, car pooling with friends is recommended. Parking on neighborhood streets will be difficult and you are cautioned to check signs for any possible restriction. Streets surrounding Shain Park will be closed to vehicular traffic. Use the free shuttle buses to get to the Village Players, the YMCA, Seaholm High School, First Presby-

terian Church and First United Methodist Church.

WHERE TO EAT: If you plan on dining in style as part of your First Night celebrations, make a reservation ASAP at any of Birmingham's fine restaurants. For a more casual approach, you'll find sandwiches, pizza, hot dogs, soft drinks, and coffee around Shain Park, at the YMCA, and at Seaholm High School.

AMENITIES: Restroom facilities are at each site and the city's Municipal Building. A diaper changing area is available in the lower level of The Community House, where bottles may also be warmed in a small kitchen. All sites are accessible to the physically disabled.

RULES OF THE GAME: Your admission button gives you access to every performance at First Night. All events will begin on the hour and half hour unless otherwise designated. To keep traffic flowing and to be fair to all, color coded tickets will be given out one hour in advance of each performance on a "first come" basis. Those tickets are good only for the next performance at the venue from which it was issued and cannot be used for any other performance.

Please help us thank First Night sponsors:

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In addition, more than 100 additional people and organizations sponsored the event as First Nighters, Patrons, Friends and Donors.

...and this year's steering committee:

Nancy Nelson Cressy, Co-Chair
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The Prism Quartet