

# Symphony hosts benefit dinner, considers move

**Editor's note:** The performing arts aren't immune from the fallout of a depressed economy and the planned closing of a major auto assembly plant like Willow Run in Ypsilanti. Rising costs have forced the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra to consider holding its concerts in another city.

By Linda Ann Chomlin  
Special writer

A bleak economy, coupled with scheduling difficulties and rising auditorium rental costs at Plymouth Salem High School, could force the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra to move its concerts to Novi next year.

The orchestra is wrapping up its 46th season with a benefit dinner concert — "A Night at the Movies," Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11, at the Fox Hills Country Club, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. and the concert starting at 8 p.m. Tickets for the dinner and concert are \$40; students in kindergarten through grade 12, \$25.

Tickets for concert only are \$25; students, \$10. To charge tickets, call 453-2715.

**GUEST ARTISTS:** "Measure for Measure" an Ann Arbor-based men's chorus directed by Leonard Riccio.

"It's a fun, entertaining program, but it also is a program that gives the audience a chance to come out and support the orchestra," said Russell Reed, conductor.

The pops concert is usually the most popular program of the season. Last year's single-night dinner concert raised \$3,000.

"We hope to raise \$5,000 this year," Reed said. "The fees for using the auditorium may double next year, and if that's the case, we'll be spending \$10,000 to \$11,000 on the hall alone."

Last year's operating budget was \$86,000. The projected budget for the 1992-93 season is \$99,000.

Two years ago, rental fees for an entire season at Plymouth Salem High School's auditorium totaled \$1,280. This season's fees were \$5,400.

Richard Egli, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' administrative assistant for community relations, said he didn't know if auditorium rental costs would be increased next year, but added the schools couldn't afford to operate any longer at a loss.

"A SINGLE concert costs \$15,000, and upwards to produce. The Nutcracker runs \$25,000 because you have to pay the ballet company," said Keyo Morris, Plymouth Symphony Society administrative director.

"The schools have said they're in a financial bind. We understand that. All we're asking for is that the school district give us dates far enough in advance to get out our season brochure."

Since the orchestra's administrative arm, the Plymouth Symphony Society, aims to increase revenue through the sale of the 1992-93 season tickets, it is imperative to mail out the brochure early, said Morris.

"We are being forced to look at Novi because we aren't able to get the school district to give us these dates far enough in advance."



The men's chorus, Measure for Measure will be featured with the Plymouth Symphony in "Music from the Movies" a benefit pops concert 8

p.m. Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11 at the Fox Hills Country Club's Golden Fox.

As far as confirming dates for next year's concerts, Egli said the schools would have firm dates for the Plymouth Symphony by April 15. Next year, they're aiming to have dates by March 1.

While he understands the orchestra's position, Egli said, "our dressing rooms are used by our swim teams. Until the swim team's schedule is set, dates cannot be confirmed because school dressing rooms are to be used by swim teams first."

WHEN TOLD the PSO was considering other concert sites in Novi, Egli said "the thing they're really part of Plymouth, and we'd hate to see them go, but if financial considerations force them to move to Novi, so be it."

This season, the orchestra presented seven programs, a total of 10 performances. Reed said while individual support was up, the orchestra plans to expand its appeal not only to Plymouth and Canton, but other surrounding communities as well.

Concert tickets are also available at Belter Jewelry, 804 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Evola Music, 215 W. Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth; Dearborn Music Co., 42679 Ford Road, Canton; Giftfinder, 302 E. Main, and Book-stall on the Main, 116 E. Main, Northville.

The benefit pops concert is sponsored in part by the Ford Sheldon Road plant, Fox Hills Country Club, Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

## College presents concert

Henry Ford Community College presents "A Symphony Celebration" featuring the college's 95-member Metropolitan Symphony Band 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 14.

The band will perform a variety of classical music selections, including "Sun Coast Festive March," "Chester Overture," "Prelude in Fugue in G minor" by Bach and "Stars and Stripes Forever" by Sousa.

Western Wayne County symphony band members are Dawn Andrus, Michelle Almon and Todd Szali of

Westland; Jim Critchton of Redford; and Joe Diponio of Plymouth.

Another concert 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, features outstanding applied music students performing individually, and in groups. The music will range from Bach to Chopin to Charlie Parker.

Concerts will be in the Adair Auditorium of the MacKenzie Fine Arts Center on campus at 5401 Evergreen, Dearborn. There is no admission charge; the public is welcome.

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