

Farmington Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

ON THE MARQUEE

Opera

Soprano Valerie Yova of Bloomfield Hills, performs 7 p.m. Friday, May 8, at an opera dinner theater 7 p.m. Friday, May 8 at the Community House of Birmingham, 360 South Bates. Yova has been administrator of the Lyric Chamber Ensemble since December 1990, and performed on Nov. 10 in the LCE's "Flamenco Fantasy" concert at Orchestra Hall. She is also serves as music director for St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral in Southfield. For more information about the dinner, call 644-7374 or 644-5892.

Cabaret

New cabaret entertainment "Deeper Creepers, Who the Heck is Harry Warren?" opening May 7 through July 11 at Punchinello's, 184 Pierce at Martin in downtown Birmingham. May 7 performance, 8 p.m., with the rest of the engagement 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Warren wrote for Busby Berkeley musicals, for stars like Betty Grable, Alice Faye and Carmen Miranda. Three of his hit songs from Broadway musicals are "Rose of the Rio Grande," "Nagasaki" and "I Love My Baby and My Baby Loves Me." The cabaret at Punchinello's serves light refreshments and beverages. Reservations are suggested at 644-5277.

Rochester Symphony

Rochester Symphony under the direction of James Holmeyer, presents a concert 8 p.m. Friday, May 15 at Varner Recital Hall, Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Guest soloist David Wagner, performs the Concerto for organ, No. 1 in F by Rheinberger. Other numbers to be performed are Symphony No. 2 in E Minor, Op. 27 by Rachmaninoff and Overture to "The Magic Flute" by Mozart. Tickets \$10, available at the door.

Youth symphony auditions

The Livonia Youth Philharmonic is holding auditions for its 1992-93 season, 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 16 in Livonia at the Bentley Center, 15100 Hubbard. Rehearsals are held Saturday mornings, September through May, in Livonia at Churchill High School. Auditions are by appointment only, call 261-5751.

On stage

Look for Laura Buono and Michelle Peters at Rochester in the Pontiac Theatre IV presentation of "The Miracle Worker," 8 p.m. Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9 at Pontiac Northern High School, 10515 Alpine. Buono, 12, portrays Helen Keller, Peters is her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

Livonia Symphony Orchestra joins the Michigan Ballet Theatre in a gala Mother's Day concert that will be enjoyable for the whole family.



Michigan Ballet Theatre presents "Les Sylphides," with the Livonia Symphony, "Peter and the Wolf," and works by local choreographers, 8 p.m. May 9, 2 p.m. May 10 at Northville High School. Performances 8 p.m. May 16 and 2 p.m. May 17 at South Lyon High School. Tickets \$10 adults, \$6, children and seniors. For May 9 and 10 ticket information call 621-5590 for May 16 and 17, call 437-8105.

By KEELY WYGNONIK
STAFF WRITER

Don't let the low ticket price fool you, Michigan Ballet Theatre is anything but amateurish.

Celebrating their 25th anniversary, the ballet company has a new director, and renewed commitment to providing a training ground for young dancers, and an opportunity for professional dancers to showcase their talents.

They plan to present six concerts in the 1992-93 season, three regular concerts, and three in a children's series.

"Too many people have the feeling that cheap is not good," said artistic director Michelle Wolfe.

"A lot of our dancers have danced professionally outside the Detroit area. We want people to bring their children and educate them about ballet. Because our tickets are affordable, we sell out."

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra will join the ballet company for the upcoming Mother's Day Gala concert 8 p.m. Saturday, May 9, and 2 p.m. Sunday May 10. The concert will feature "Les Sylphides," "Peter and the Wolf," and works by local choreographers.

"Les Sylphides," is a classic ballet with music by Chopin. "It isn't done very often in the Detroit area. All the dancers are dressed in white. It's a very beautiful, very classic ballet," said Wolfe.

The ballet has special meaning for Livonia Symphony Orchestra conductor Francesco Dilibasi. "It was my first job, 45 years ago I did it with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo," he said. "I was in the orchestra and conducted."

The well-known tale of "Peter and the Wolf," will appeal to children and adults, said co-artistic director Heather Stents, a graduate of Churchill High School.

"This version is very animated. Adults will appreciate the slapstick, comic things. We created a living forest



of the dancers, they're all dressed like trees. The pond is also alive."

Works by local choreographers including "Eulogies," a contemporary ballet by James Duncan of Southfield, will also be featured in the concert.

"Eulogies is based on the loss of heritage for Native Americans," said Duncan who began his dance training in the Detroit Area and has performed throughout the United States.

"It creates its choreographic impressions through the use of primitive movement altered in the style of contemporary ballet in a blend of large flowing movement and 'stop action'."

The ballet company founded in 1967 by Evelyn Kreson, in Farmington, rehearses Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Botsford Hospital Community room. There is a major company of 20 dancers ranging in age from 14 to 30 something, and a junior company of 20

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Michelle Wolfe
artistic director,
Michigan Ballet Theatre

dancers, ages 10 to 14.

"A lot of times you can't get people to go to the ballet. They think it's stuffy, and only for the rich. We find people who come out for the concerts are pleasantly surprised," said Wolfe.

Dancers audition to join the ballet company, and volunteer their time, and talents. They hail from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. One dancer drives 103 miles round trip to rehearsal. There's also an Oakland Community College exchange student who is from Japan.

The company raises money to pay ex-

penses through fund-raising efforts, and would like to become a professional ballet company some day.

"Detroit is the only major city without a professional ballet company," said Wolfe. "Flint has one, so does Grand Rapids."

Stents adds, "We want to end the stigma, that if you're not downtown, you're not any good."

"We have limited number of Director Circle reserved seats for the May 9 and 10 concerts," said Wolfe. "These are the best seats in the house. Cost is \$20 per person, \$10 is tax deductible."

Remember MOM...
on May 10th

Our chefs have prepared a buffet feast, to make your Mother's Day an enjoyable occasion.

Carved Top Round of Beef & Baked Ham
Variety of Fresh Salads & Fruits
B.B.Q. Ribs
Baked Fish
Fried Chicken
Pasta Primavera
Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable Medley
A Fantastic Dessert Table

In recognition of her importance, each mother will receive a complimentary gift.

Only **\$10.95** Children 12 & under \$5.00
Service from 12 to 2 p.m. Reservations suggested

RAMADA HOTEL
28225 Telegraph Road
Southfield
313/355-2929

Mom cooks.

You take Mom out.

Make it special.

This Mother's Day, give Mom something she's been wanting for a long time. A break. We'll be open at 11 a.m. to serve her (and you) the Best Prime Rib in Town. So call today for a reservation. After all, she always wanted the best for you. Now it's time to return the favor.

MOUNTAIN JACK'S
PRIME STEAK HOUSE

ARMOR HILLS
LIVONIA
RIVINGTON
SOUTHFIELD

HARPER WOODS
LIVONIA
WARREN
DARBY
TROY
FARMINGTON

mother's day champagne brunch

Sunday, May 10
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mother will enjoy her special day in either our Grand Atrium, Jacques, Demers restaurant, or the Woodward Ballroom.

17.95 PER PERSON
8.95 CHILDREN UNDER 12

Our festive buffet includes carved turkey, ham, lamb with mint jelly, a wide variety of special salads and a sumptuous dessert table.

We will feature a strolling magician and live musical entertainment, making this traditional holiday a lasting memory for the entire family.

Reservations are recommended 350-2000

EMBASSY SUITES HOTELS
DETROIT-SOUTHFIELD

28100 Franklin Road, Southfield, Michigan 48034