

# Chamberworks features unknown baroque works

A recent program in the Chambersworks series had a different format than usual. Normally, this mostly baroque series features a relatively large number of short works. In many instances the list of composers, not to mention their music, is dictated by names never heard of by the average listener.

This latest program, in contrast, consisted of only two longer works. The French composers — Jean Marie L'Alain (the Elder) and Francois Couperin — are among the better known French baroque masters few are familiar with their music, however.

This program was the last on the regular subscription series this season. It was presented at Christ Church Cranbrook by the regular members of the group consisting of artistic director Thomas Kuras;

violinists Victoria Hallum and Mary Richards, and cellist Paul Willington.

The first of these works was *Premiere Recreation de Musique Op. 6* by Jean Marie L'Alain. It is, in fact, a "super-suite," consisting of movements with common suite dance titles, but considerably more complex. The second and longer work was an intricate program piece of Couperin which was a tribute to Lully.

The language of music may be universal in many instances, but in this instance it required considerable translation. This was kindly provided by Kuras, whose remarkable knowledge in the field is unsurpassed by anybody I know.

Few of us may have heard that L'Alain (1697-1753) was assassinated and the culprit has never been

caught or identified. Kuras spiced up the story with interesting speculations and theories, which could make him a suitable candidate for any panel investigating the Kennedy assassination. That, however, would leave us with nobody to guide us around the mysteries of baroque music.

The Couperin work consists of many movements with programmatic titles describing various episodes. These reflect the conflict between the French and Italian styles, represented by Lully and Corelli, respectively.

The stylistic controversy persists even after the ascent to Parnassus until some truce of coexistence is worked out. This work is remarkable in the way Couperin actually utilizes these stylistic elements. It

would provide only limited motivation, however, to the casual listener unaware with the music's context and structure.

To keep the programmatic content alive, Kuras announced each movement's title in almost perfectly enunciated French. The English translation of these titles was printed in the program for the benefit of those who don't speak French. This event was one of the more enchanting trips into the unknown and little explored domain of baroque music.

The *Suite to Mozart* sub-series of Chamberworks will present its final event on May 29 at the Belvoir Art Center in Troy. Seating is limited, get your tickets early. Call 643-7788.

## UPCOMING THINGS TO DO

### DANCE

#### DETROIT DANCE COLLECTIVE

Detroit Dance Collective, featuring many area dancers, presents a concert 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9 at the Lila Jones Johnson Theatre, Oakland Community College, Royal Oak campus. Tickets \$10 and \$8.

Call 544-5559 for reservations, information.

### CONCERTS

#### CASSINI ENSEMBLE

The Cassini Ensemble will present a concert celebrating the birthdays of Brahms and Tchaikovsky, 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 19 at Kerrytouch Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Street,

Ann Arbor. Performers include Marla Smith of Southfield. Admission \$9 general, \$7 students and seniors, \$12 reserved. Call 769-2999 for information.

#### DETROIT CHAMBER WINDS

Closes its 10th anniversary season, 8 p.m. Friday, May 16 at Kingswood School, 855 Cranbrook Road. A reception will follow. Tickets at the door, \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, students.

\$16, students, seniors \$10. Call 851-8DCW.

#### DETROIT CONCERT CHOIR

"Music of Spring" featuring an array of classical, folk and contemporary music 8 p.m. Saturday, May 16 at Kingswood School, 855 Cranbrook Road. A reception will follow. Tickets at the door, \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, students.

#### GROUP DU JOUR

Group du jour presents their final concert of the season, chamber music 7 p.m. Friday, May 15, 8 p.m. symphony performance at Mercy Conference Center, 28500 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Admission \$10, seniors and stu-

dents \$8. Call 478-2075 for information.

#### KALEIDOSCOPE CONCERTS

"Artful Strings" 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17 at the Birmingham Community House Ballroom, 3805 Bates. Tickets \$11, seniors and students \$7. Call 856-0299 or 855-0459.

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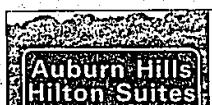
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