

Farmington Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1992

ON THE MARQUEE

Piano recital

Jerome Stasson, violin teacher, and Betty Kowalsky Stasson, piano teacher, will present their students in a piano and violin recital, 8 p.m. Monday, June 15, at the Birmingham Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. The public is invited to attend. There will be no admission charge.

Bel Canto

Bel Canto Choral Society will close their 1991-92 season with a concert 8 p.m. Monday, June 15, at Congregation Beth Achim, 29100 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield. The 30-member women's choral group will perform a wide range of music including Broadway and Hebrew classics. There is no admission charge.

Theater guild

The Theater Guild of Livonia-Redford presents "Albertine in Five Times," a story of a woman at five different times in her lifetime. Together the five Albertines provide a moving portrait of an extraordinary "ordinary" woman. Performances dates are June 19, 20, 26, 27, July 10, 11, and 12. Friday and Saturday shows start at 8 p.m. Matinee 2 p.m. Sunday, July 12. All shows at the playhouse, 15138 Beech Daly Road, one block south of Five Mile in Redford. Tickets \$7. For information, call 538-5678.

La Casa

Singer Iris DeMent performs at the La Casa Music Series, 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 19, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward at Lane Point. Advance tickets are \$10, at the door price is \$12. For information, call 646-4950.

Summer concerts

South Oakland Concert Band performs 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 24 at the historic Burgh Site at Civic Center Drive and Berg Road in Southfield. The concert stage is a gazebo. In addition to entertainment, the Southfield historic museum will be open 6-8 p.m. on the night of the concert. For information, call 354-7417.

Livonia Symphony

The Livonia Cultural League and Livonia Symphony Orchestra will present a golf benefit, "Chip in for the Arts," noon Wednesday, July 1, at Whispering Willows Golf Course, Newburgh on Eight Mile in Livonia. Cost \$50 per golfer includes green fees, golf cart rental, lunch and refreshments. Hole sponsorships available for \$25 per hole. Proceeds will help support the Livonia Cultural League and Livonia Symphony Orchestra. For tickets, send check payable to LCL/LSO Golf Benefit to 15592 Hix Court, Livonia, MI 48154. For information, call 464-3460.

Entertaining cast in musical 'Grease'

Performers of the St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook production of "Grease" continue through June 13 at the Classical Cranbrook Outdoor Greek Theatre, 400-Lone Pine Road, on the Cranbrook Educational Campus, Campus Bloomfield Hills. For ticket information call 644-0527.



BARBARA MICHAELS

Nostalgia reigns as St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook recreates the fabulous 1950s with a delightfully rollicking, rock-and-roll production of the musical "Grease."

Set at fictitious Rydell High School in Chicago, "Grease" goitly lampoons the clothes, attitudes, and music of teenagers at the dawn of the rock-and-roll era.

Sandy (Kendall White), the new kid at school, is a prim and proper type who has fallen for "greaser" Danny Zuko (Sean Krill). Should she remain squeaky clean like cheerleader Patty (Kim Kozlowski) or let her ponytail down and turn into one of the "cool" Pink Ladies that Danny seems to favor?

The talented St. Dunstan's cast is as super-charged with energy as the gang's bright red hot rod "Greased Lightning."

The latter, its body constructed over an electric golf cart, is a real stand-out among the many clever design touches in the show's sets and props. Maneuvering the vehicle up and down a narrow ramp and turning it around without knocking over the orchestra merits applause in its own right.

All of the principals have fine voices, and "Grease" allows each a chance in the spotlight. White and Krill click with "Summer Nights." As Marty (Teresa Ruth) croons, "Freddy, My Love," Janie Richards's Kenickie leads a spirited chorus through "Greased Lightning."

Amy Smith's Jan and Ron Zane's, Roger shine in "Mooning." Leisa Pallido is wonderful as Rizzo, the tough cookie who fills out Sandy with "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee." Janie Castagna, Friendly, laments she's a "Beauty School Dropout," and she's aided by her Teen Angel, Alti Andries in a flashy white suit and towering pompadour.

In supporting roles, Roz Bacherian is hilarious as Miss Lynch, the elderly no-nonsense English teacher; David Raithe, Eugene is the epitome of the brainy class nerd, and Pam Richards is very good as Cha-Cha, someone's slutty blind date.

Director/choreographer Dee Dee Johns-Charlton has done an outstanding job of pulling it all together and presenting a lively, polished and fun-filled show. Aiding her are musical director Andrew McMechan and assistant directors Tom Christopher and Chris Pugmeco.



Musical comedy: Revisit the drive-in, malt shop, pajama parties and the prom with Janine Castagna (left to right), Kendall White, Teresa Ruth and Amy Smith in "Grease" a rollicking salute to the 1950s.

Amy DeMay's set designs show endless inventiveness, as exemplified by the giant half pint carton of milk in the school cafeteria scene. Theresa Raithe's costumes are delightfully authentic, including poodle skirts, saddle shoes, baby socks, and black leather jackets. Though no one is credited for the equally authentic hair styles, I understand that Pam Richards has a magic touch with ducktails and pompadours.

From the pre-show medley of famous 1950s hits through the show's finale of "Born to Hand-Jive," "Grease" offers an irresistible toe-tapping beat that is joyous, nostalgic, and great fun: "Jitterbug, anyone?"

Barbara Michaels is a retired Southfield English teacher. A theater critic for the last 17 years, she is an inveterate player who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

derstand that Pam Richards has a magic touch with ducktails and pompadours.

From the pre-show medley of famous 1950s hits through the show's finale of "Born to Hand-Jive," "Grease" offers an irresistible toe-tapping beat that is joyous, nostalgic, and great fun: "Jitterbug, anyone?"

Barbara Michaels is a retired Southfield English teacher. A theater critic for the last 17 years, she is an inveterate player who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

Duo inspires audience at Shaarey Zedek



AVIDOR ZAROMP

Among the institutions of significant cultural and musical heritage, the Congregation Shaarey Zedek is one of leading forces. At the largest Jewish Conservative congregation in the area, its appeal goes far beyond those with the underlying religious background and philosophy.

For the past 53 years, it has featured an annual musical event, named after Peter and Clara Weisberg, who established this series in 1930.

The latest of these, on Wednesday, June 6, featured violinist Daniel Heifetz and pianist Samuel Sanders in a varied program of selections, ranging from the standard classical repertoire to the Jewish folkloric.

This event, with only limited advertising, nevertheless attracted an audience comparable in size to that of the orchestra Hall for a major event. General admission to these events is free, with

some of the costs being assumed by contributing patrons.

One aspiration of any artist is to establish his own artistic identity. With a name like Heifetz, the inevitable question arises in the mind of any listener. The subject of any relationship between Daniel Heifetz and the legendary Jascha Heifetz was never brought up in the speeches preceding the program or in the printed program itself.

One may rationalize that such an aspect shouldn't matter — each artist should be treated as an individual. This, however, is not enough to make one's curiosity go away. To put this issue to rest, I asked the question, and was told by Daniel Heifetz that there was a very remote, indirect relationship. Having this issue resolved, I am happy to conclude that Daniel Heifetz is, indeed, a gifted artist in his own right.

His partner that evening, Samuel Sanders, has collaborated with many celebrated artists. Here he appeared recently with the Kuvakin sisters at Orchestra Hall. "This duo is a powerful combination.

The audience consisted largely of people who were eager and enthusiastic to attend a musical event under these circumstances, but who are not among regular concertgoers.

Thus, there were several Jewish oriented selections, and some of the standard classical items were cut short. My biggest source of joy was when the Frank sonata in A major had only its last move. The entire work, however, may have required too long of an attention span for many others in this audience.

Another classical selection which was cut short was from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet, of which only the march of the Montagues and Capulets was played. While one could hardly expect a more joyful rendition of this massive piece when given by a piano and violin, it still couldn't match Prokofiev's thick and resonating orchestration. Among the Jewish themes, the most pronounced was the Nigun by Ernest Bloch, which is seldom performed before a general audience, but frequently before Jewish audiences. Seldom, however, one could hear a rendition as musically and ethically meaningful as in this performance.

Music can be applied to a certain audience with a specific heritage, as shown in this performance. Even the two pieces by Kreisler — "Prædium and Allegro" and "Liedespiel" — given for an encore — sounded almost Jewish with some of the tonal inflections. Yet, paradoxically, it didn't detract from their authenticity. Kreisler, who himself was Jewish, captured the Negro soul in his opera "Porgy and Bess," which was featured with some of its popular melodies on this program.

An appeal to a specific ethnic group is but one of music's many faces. Its universal language was illustrated by Heifetz, who proved to be a capable storyteller as well as a musician.

CRUISE CALM CANADIAN RIVERS

Board our elegant Replica
Turned-of-the-Century Steamships
For 3, 5 or 7 night adventures
on historic-laden waters
steeped in breathtaking
scenery.

STEAMBOAT

From the magnificent "1000 Islands"
through the International
St Lawrence Seaway to the
staggering Saguenay Fjord
and picturesque
capital of Canada.

24368 Grand River
St. Lawrence, Ontario
OPEN 7 DAYS
1-800-267-7868

DON PEDRO'S

\$3.29 LUNCH SPECIALS

MEXICAN SAMPLER \$9.95 FOR TWO

Includes: Shrimp Cocktail, Chicken Enchilada, El Pasa
Burrito, Tostitos Guacamole, Rice & Beans,
Doritos Only - No Guacamole
Extra \$10.95 - Add Valid With Any Other Offer

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN CUISINE

FREE BANQUET ROOM FOR
WEDDINGS, SHOWERS AND PARTIES

24368 Grand River
St. Lawrence, Ontario
OPEN 7 DAYS
1-800-267-7868

SCHWINN

DADS & GRADS SALE

Whether a cycling novice, Schwinn makes a perfect gift for dad or grandpa. Schwinn bikes are fun and safe while capitalizing on the best of both worlds. Father's Day and Graduation gifts. June 21, 1992.

Schwinn Cross-Fit

Upgraded features
• 10 speed, 21 speed, 24 speed, 27 speed
• 10 speed, 21 speed, 24 speed, 27 speed
• 10 speed, 21 speed, 24 speed, 27 speed
• 10 speed, 21 speed, 24 speed, 27 speed

\$209.05

Schwinn AirDyne

Upgraded features
• 10 speed, 21 speed, 24 speed, 27 speed
• 10 speed, 21 speed, 24 speed, 27 speed
• 10 speed, 21 speed, 24 speed, 27 speed
• 10 speed, 21 speed, 24 speed, 27 speed

\$299.05

JERRY'S

BICYCLES OF BIRMINGHAM

15915 Woodward • Birmingham, AL 35204-5128
(313) 645-8881
CYCLING & FITNESS SINCE 1930

991 Drive Sales on 10th • Tomorrow Available • WE MON-SAT 9-5 SUNDAY 10-5

SCHWINN
CYCLING AND FITNESS

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED NOW!

Expose your family to another culture. Well screened girls and boys from Spain & Mexico, ages 15 to 18 years, old, need families willing to host them for the 1992-93 school year.

Learn more about the Spanish language and Hispanic culture while making a lifelong friend from abroad. Call NOW to qualify and select your own exchange student:

Ruth Dunn at 313/357-5678
OR
Michelle at 1-800-888-9040 (Toll Free)

THE SPANISH HERITAGE

Spanish Heritage is a public benefit, non-profit organization

The Largest French & Indian War Living History Demonstration in America

RENDEZVOUS ON THE ROUGE

JUNE 13 & 14, 1992

Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For Reservations and Information Contact:
Deborah Historical Museum
915 Brady St.
Dearborn, MI 48114
Ph. (313) 565-3000

Great Lakes Indians, French-Indian Wars, Mameluke Demonstrations, European Cavalry, Hard on Left Demonstrations, Mass, Children's Games, Trap, Dolls.

• Donation \$2 adult
• Children and Under Free

TWILIGHT TOUR OF CAMP

SATURDAY ONLY
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
\$1 per person
Tickets Required From Museum

FORD FIELD
Dearborn Michigan