

ON THE
MARQUEE

Theatre Guild

The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford presents "The Cocktail Hour" by A.R. Gurney, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24 at the playhouse, 15138 Beech Daly, Redford. This play explores the often hilarious complications that ensue when a playwright seeks permission from his rather stuffy parents to proceed with production of a play which he has written about them. Tickets \$7, for information, call 538-5678.

Village Players

The Village Players present "Sherlock's Last Case," a mystery thriller by Charles Marowitz, 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, Friday, Oct. 9 and Saturday, Oct. 10 at the playhouse on the southeast corner of Chestnut and Hunter, two blocks south of Maple in Birmingham. For tickets call 644-2076.

Plymouth Symphony

Plymouth Symphony opens its season 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 with "Festival of Music" featuring guest artists Emmanuelle Boivert, DSO principal violin and Marcy Chanteau, DSO assistant principal cello, at the Plymouth-Salem auditorium, 40181 Joy Road, Canton. Tickets \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and college students. For information, call 451-2112.

Chamberworks

Chamberworks opens its season 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 with German Masters of the Baroque at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, corner of Cranbrook and Lone Pine Roads. Tickets \$10, seniors and students, \$7. For information, call 643-7788.

International festival

Oakland Community College and Musica Viva are combining their resources for an exciting multi-media event, 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Smith Performing Arts Theatre at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. The event will feature a limited seating gourmet dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the concert at 8 p.m. The event will feature works by the leading independent filmmakers of Prague and Detroit, dance and music. For more information, call 471-7700.

Rochester Symphony

The Rochester Symphony orchestra, under the direction of James Hohmeyer, opens its season, 8 p.m. Friday, October 16 at Yarnert Hall on the Campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills with a salute to Johannes Brahms. Tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased by calling 661-4181 or at the door.



It's a familiar favorite for many, but Michigan Opera Theatre's production of "The Music Man" will be a new chapter for some veteran performers, including an award-winning barbershop quartet. They'll be excited by the challenge, and more than ready.

"The Music Man" will open at the Fisher Theatre Friday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. For tickets, call (313)874-SING.

BY BILL COUPTANT
STAFF WRITER

When Michigan Opera Theatre's production of "The Music Man" opens Friday, some veteran performers will probably feel like they're starting all over.

These singers and hoofers aren't the faint of heart, mind you, but they are feeling some of the excitement that comes with performing a work for the first time, albeit a musical that is as American as, well, Iowa.

"This is the first really dramatic musical for us," says Lee Hanson, a Birmingham native and bass singer with the barbershop quartet "Stay Tuned."

But like most MOT performers, Hanson and his group are hardly newcomers to the stage. "Stay Tuned," which has performed at vocal competitions boasts members who have been with other groups as well. Hanson, who along with his wife owns a Port Huron radio station, has performed nationally and internationally with barbershop quartets for more than 30 years.

"We're used to performing in front of an audience," he said. "But this is kind of a challenge. And this is just the right show for us. We (Hanson and other "Stay Tuned" members Dennis Gore, Brian Kaufman and Bruce Lamarte) talked about doing this because we knew it would be a real commitment. If say, it would have been "Oklahoma," we wouldn't

have been interested."

So how hard could it be for these performers to sing some of the best known show tunes of American theatre?

"The show has a lot of history," he said. "The 'Buffalo Bills' did it on Broadway and in the movie. They had their own style. And we have ours. So we really want to do it in our style."

Hanson says singing on stage at the Fisher Theatre will require a somewhat different technique.

"You have to be sure not to stress the vowels too much," he said. "You've got to emphasize some consonants so the audience can hear the words distinctly and yet we have to stay with our style. It's tricky."

"Stay Tuned" beat out several other area quartets to earn its part. And the group will get a lot of work during the show, singing backup much of the time when they aren't the featured performers.

Although Chicago native Amy Dolan Maloney will be performing in her third Music Man, it will be in a new role, the character Maud Duncop.

Maloney, who lives in Farmington Hills, has impressive stage credentials, with experience in both New York and Chicago. She was a cast member in the Broadway hit "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" and can be heard on the soundtrack.

But with her husband's transfer and the birth of two children, now ages 1 and 2, Maloney will have been away from the stage for four years. She has continued to teach voice, but she is excited about her return to the stage.



Right here in River City: Michigan Opera Theatre's production of "The Music Man" will give some area performers a chance to show off their proven talents. The popular musical opens Friday at the Fisher Theatre.

Singers to open Saturday concert series for kids

Meadow Brook Theatre will offer a second season of "Saturday Fun for Kids" concerts, beginning Oct. 10. Four children's shows will be offered on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

They are: singers Ron Coden and Josh White, Jr., Oct. 10; Disney recording artist Norman Foote, Nov. 14; folklorist Ella Jenkins, Feb. 27; and International Puppet Place's "Hansel and Gretel," April 3. Series tickets, on sale through Sept. 25, are

\$20. Single tickets are \$6. Ticket information is available through the theatre box office at (313) 377-3300.

Performances will last about one hour and are not recommended for children under age 3.

Ron Coden and Josh White Jr. are well-known performers in the Detroit area. Their children's cassette, "My Favorite Toy," was released in September 1991. Singer/humorist Norman Foote has released two record-

ings on the Disney label. In concert he combines music with stand-up comedy, using such unusual props as a giant baby and a talking head.

Hailed as "the first lady of the children's folk song," Ella Jenkins has been performing since 1956. She is a regular guest on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.

Kalamazoo-based International Puppet Place has appeared with the Chicago Symphony, and has been invited to perform for the White House.

Meadow Brook Theatre is on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills.

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Oct. 16, 17, 18(+), 21(m), 22, 23, 24(m), 24, 25(m), 25(+), (15th/20th sold out)
Tickets available at the theatre and at the Fisher Theatre, Southfield, by calling (313) 874-SING
Children's Tickets \$10
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