THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1992

Farminaton Observer

MARQUEE

Theatre Guild

he Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford presents "The Cocktall 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 playwight seeks permission from his rather suffy parents to proceed with production of a play which he has written about them. Tickets \$7, for information, call 638-5678.

Village Players

he Village Players present "Sherlock's Last Case," a mystery thriller by Charles Marrowitz, B.m. Thursday, Oct. 8. Friday, Oct. 9 and Saturday, Oct. 10 at the playhouse on the southeast corner of Chestutt and Hunter, two

Plymouth Symphony

P lymouth Symphony opens its season 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 with "Festival of Music" featuring guest artists Emmanuelle Boisvert, DSO principal violin and Marcy Chanteux, DSO assistant principal cello, at the Plymouth-Salem auditorium, 46181 Joy Road, Canton, Tickets \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and college students. For information, call 451-2112.

Chamberworks

hamberworks opens its season 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 with German Masters of the Barone 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

akland Community College and Musica Vival 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 gournet 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

he Rochester Symphony orchestra, under the direction of James Hohmeyer, opens its season, 8 pm. Friday, October 16 at Varner Hall on the Campus of Oakland University in Re-chester Hills with a salute to Johannes Brahms.

'Music Man' combines old, new



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 ex-cited 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 COUTANT STAFF WRITER

BY BILL COUTANT
TATE WATER

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 feint of heart, mind you, but they are feeling some of the excitment that comes with performing a work for the first time, albeit a musical that is as American as, well, lowa.

"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 vecal competitions boasts members who have been with other groups as well. Hanson, who along with his wife owns a Port Huror redio station, has performed nationally and internationally with barbershop quartets for more than 30 years.

"We're used to performing in front

with barbershop quartets for more than 39 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 Lamaret t alked 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 theater?

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"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."

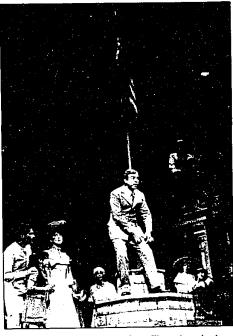
Hanson says aligning on stage at the
Flaher Theatre will require a somewhat different technique.
"You have to be sure not to stress
the vowels too much," he "You've got to emphasize some consonants so the audience can hear the
words distinctly and yet we have to
stay with our style. It's tricky."
"Stay 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.

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

Malaney, 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, Malaney 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 Wlansel and Gretel," April 3. Series tickets, on sale through Sept. 25, are

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 concerted since 1956. She is a regular guest on Mister Rogers' chester Hills.



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OCTOBER 9, 10, 11, 1992

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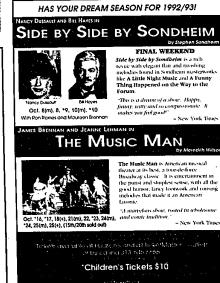


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