



Classic musical: Marian (Jeanne Lehman) listens as her piano student, Amariyllis (Erin April Webley) of Orchard Lake, explains why she says good night to Withrop every night on the evening star.

'The Music Man' entertains

Performances of the Michigan Opera Theatre's production of "The Music Man" continue through Oct. 25 at Fisher Theatre in Detroit. For ticket information call 876-SING or TicketMaster, 645-6666.



KEELY WYGONIK

Some musicals are timeless. "The Music Man" is one of them. It's as relevant today as it was when it opened on Dec. 19, 1957. The Michigan Opera Theatre's production was directed by University of Michigan theater director Brent Wagner and conducted by MOT's assistant music director, Suzanne Acton.

If you don't already know, "The Music Man" based on the book by Meredith Willson, tells the story of "Professor" Harold Hill (James Brennan) a quick-talking, slick co-artist who warns parents in the small town in 1912 Iowa, that "There's Trouble in River City," a portable, that will corrupt their youth.

He cleverly convinces towns-

people that River City needs a boys marching band to keep the youth occupied, and charms parents into buying instruments and band uniforms.

What he doesn't tell them is — he can't tell one note from another, knows nothing about teaching music, and plans to skip town with his money.

To gain credibility, he tries to gain the confidence of town librarian, Marian (Jeanne Lehman) who also gives piano lessons.

As the story unfolds, the audience is treated to delightful toe-tapping music and lyrics written by Willson. Songs like "Seventy-Six Trombones," "Wells Fargo Wagon," "Marian The Librarian" and "Till There Was You."

Love conquers all, truth triumphs, and justice prevails as the professor confesses to Marian that he doesn't know anything about music, and plans to skip town. Marian tells him to hurry before he's caught, and in his defense, says the town is better because he passed through.

He, of course, doesn't leave. Tommy Djilas (Josh Rhodes), who is smitten with the mayor's daughter, Zaneeta Shinn

(Meghan Hakes), called a troublemaker and forbidden to see her, saves the day. He marches on stage with the boys band. It doesn't matter that everyone is playing off key, the parents love it.

When quarreling members of the school council portrayed by the award-winning burbershop quartet, "Sey Tuned," that includes Birmingham native, Lee Hanson, find harmony singing ditties like "Lida Rose," it's hard to stifle a laugh.

I'm sure we'll be hearing from Erin April Webley of Orchard Lake again. As Amariyllis she is delightful. In the song "Goodnight My Someone," which she sings with Marian, Webley's voice is strong and carries well. She's sweet, yet outspoken, and charms the audience.

Everyone in the cast did a marvelous job. Broadway dancer/choreographer Mary Jane Houdina is very talented. In the opening scene, the combination of music, and movement gives the illusion of saloonmen traveling on a train. Their newspapers move up and down, and they move in a way that depicts movement. Houdina's work is truly art in motion.

BBSO offers evening of music, fun at opener

Celebrating 18 years as an outstanding professional orchestra playing the familiar classics and pops, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra and Music Director and Conductor Felix Resnick have programmed a Season to delight everyone's tastes.

The BBSO will open their Season 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, with Guest Conductor Charles Greenwell on the podium. This concert is at the Temple Beth El, 14 Mile and Telegraph Roads.

Joining the Symphony for this evening of music and fun, will be

guest artists Marcel Shulman, Mark Vandark and Lawrence Formosa performing excerpts from Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera."

Also included in this concert will be Mussorgsky's "A Night on Bald Mountain," Saint-Saens' "Danse Macabre," Lindov's "Kikimora," Humperdinck's, "Witch's Ride" from "Hansel and Gretel" and Gounod's "Funeral March of a Marionette."

The Orchestra may be dressed in costume for this evening's per-

formance to add to the festivities. This Boston-Pops style concert offers free popcorn and refreshments may be purchased. They will also be selling Entertainment Books as a fund-raiser at this concert.

Call the Symphony Office for tickets, 645-2276. There is still time to take advantage of saving on ticket prices when you order the complete season. Or call today to order individual tickets, adult tickets for Oct. 29 concert are \$15, students (under 19) \$10. Tickets will be available at the door which will open at 7:30pm.

Play features classic children's tales

"Rainbow Tales," a program of classic tales for children, opens 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, in the Studio Theatre, downstairs at the Hilbert at Wayne State University, Detroit.

"Rainbow Tales" is an eclectic collection of popular children's stories from around the world. When a group of children are asked to choose playtime activities, reading is the last thing on their list.

Eventually, they are convinced that reading can be fun. What follows is a rollicking storytelling ex-

perience for both the young and the young at heart.

The play is under the direction of Adell Austin Anderson, director of the Black Theatre program of the Department of Theatre.

"The stories have universal appeal and references are made throughout the program that make it suitable and enjoyable for adults," she said. "The program is designed so that the audience will immediately recognize the stories."

The cast includes: Andrea Krass (Troy), Michael Musto

(Walled Lake), Christina Riopelle (Rochester), and Stacy Stoltz (Garden City).

Reid Downey is scenic and lighting designer and Mary Copenhagen is designing costumes.

Performances of "Rainbow Tales" are Friday, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 31 and Nov. 7, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 1 and Nov. 8, at 2 p.m. A special performance is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, at 10:30 a.m., as part of artistat, Wayne State's workshop series for children.



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