

ON THE
MARQUEE

Ridgedale Players

Junior Actors of Ridgedale Players will present the classic children's story, "Heidi," 7 p.m. Friday, June 25, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, June 26, and 1 p.m. Sunday, June 27 at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake Road, Troy. Tickets \$4. Call 288-0799.

Avon Players

Avon Players of Rochester announce the opening of their annual fund-raiser, "Made in the USA," a music revue that features the talents of many local performers. Show times 8 p.m. Friday, June 25 and Saturday, June 26; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 27 at the playhouse on Tienken at Washington, east off of Rochester Road in Rochester Hills. Tickets for Friday's performance are \$16, and include a reception and tour of the theater. Saturday and Friday performances are \$10. Tickets available at the door, or in advance by calling 376-1390.

Jazz and strawberries

The Franklin Community Association invites you to its first Jazz-Strawberry Social, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 27 at the Gazebo in Franklin Village. Enjoy a strawberry auclade, chocolate dipped strawberries, pop and coffee, plus the continuous music of two Dixieland and New Orleans jazz bands. The music is free; there is a charge for refreshments.

Youth symphony

Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra, composed of 88 young musicians, will visit Troy during their Midwest Tour. They will present a chamber music recital 7 p.m. Sunday, June 27 at Faith Lutheran Church, Big Beaver and Dequindre roads, and a symphony concert, 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 28 at Troy High School, Northfield Parkway and Long Lake Road, Troy. Admission to the concert and recital is free.

Johnny Trudell

The Livonia Arts Commission presents Music Under the Stars 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 1 with Johnny Trudell Big Band (Top 40) at Civic Center Park, 33897 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The concert is free, and open to the public, bring your own lawn chair. For information about upcoming concerts, call 421-2000, Extension 351 or 426-2326.

Java Coffeehouse

New World Order Jazztet will perform 8-11 p.m. Tuesday, June 29 at Java Coffeehouse, 307 N. Main Street, Rochester. For more information, call 650-3344 or Nina Bentley, 874-4394.

Birmingham Theatre

Stage Door Productions presents "Godspell," a musical based upon the Gospel according to St. Matthew, at the Birmingham Theatre, 231 S. Woodward, July 8 to Aug. 1. Tickets available at the box office, 644-3533, and all Ticketmaster outlets. To charge tickets, call 644-6666. Student and senior discounts available.

BBSO strikes right note with Pine Knob



STEWART FRANKE

Like other small symphony orchestras, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra is a quiet impetus to many people in its community. The 66-member professional orchestra, with its graceful mix of pops and classics, is an alternative to the traffic jams and the hectic nature of contemporary society.

Yet unlike other Michigan community orchestras, the BBSO is enjoying an elevated professional status — they have been asked by Pine Knob to provide orchestral backing for the touring artists that constitute Pine Knob's summer classics series.

The first concert in which the BBSO participated was the June 22 appearance by Broadway stylist Michael Feinstein. They will also perform with the Moody Blues, one of the first groups to blend a rock sensibility with orchestral string arrangements, on June 24.

Other concerts featuring the BBSO will be headlined by composer-conductor Henry Mancini, the new age act Vangelis, and Disney's Symphonic Fantasy. A recent winner of the Motor City Music Award for outstanding community orchestra, the BBSO is comprised of both full time and part time musicians who work in other professions. Formed in 1975, the symphony now offers a rigorous and varied schedule of concerts held principally at Temple Beth El in Birmingham. The Pine Knob opportunity, however, is unprecedented and prestigious.

"Pine Knob called and asked if we would be interested," said Carla Lamphere, the BBSO's executive director. "We are really excited because it is such a prestigious opportunity.

And it will give a lot of people the chance to hear and see us. When they do, they'll find they have something wonderful in their own backyard."

The fact that Pine Knob shows that we've reached a new plateau in our musical ability, as well as how we're perceived," said her husband Ward Lamphere, a trombonist in the orchestra. "It's a very rare thing for a community orchestra to do something like this."

The Pine Knob series is also of financial benefit to the BBSO. Although Lamphere estimates that they generate 30 to 40 percent of their annual budget through concert ticket sales, the rest is raised via community fund raising.

"Besides being a wonderful musical opportunity, we're looking at Pine Knob as a fund-raising project," director Lamphere said. "We hope to establish more than a one year relationship with them."

Since its formation 18 years ago, the BBSO has grown under the direction of only one conductor, Felix Reznick. Also a longtime violinist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Reznick will not be participating in the Pine Knob series; each artist travels with his own conductor. Yet Reznick is well aware, and justifiably proud, of the orchestra's dramatic development.

"I think the orchestra has been coached over the years, and they've acquired a certain proficiency," said Reznick. "We're perhaps more flexible than some other orchestras. We've generally done our concerts in a minimum number of rehearsals, which I think makes us more quick in reading music."

Reading music — music that the orchestra may be unfamiliar with — is just one of the musical challenges that each member of the BBSO faces with this type of concert. "It has to fit that particular act, so the orchestra is no longer the star," Reznick said.

Performance schedule

Here's the schedule of Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra performances at Pine Knob. Tickets are available at the Palace and Pine Knob box offices and all Ticketmaster centers. Tickets may be charged by phone to American Express, Visa, MasterCard or Discover by calling 645-6666. For information, call 377-0100.

■ Thursday, June 24, 7:30 p.m. — The Moody Blues in concert with the BBSO. Tickets \$22.50 and \$17.50 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn.

■ Sunday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. — Henry Mancini with the BBSO. Tickets \$25 and \$20 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn.

■ Monday, July 5, 7:30 p.m. —

Henry Mancini with the BBSO. Tickets \$22.50 and \$17.50 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn.

■ Friday, July 9, 8:30 p.m. — Yanni Live with the BBSO. Tickets \$35, \$25 and \$22.50 pavilion seating only.

■ Friday, July 30, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 31, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. — Disney's Symphonic Fantasy with the BBSO. Tickets \$22.50 and \$17.50 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn. Groups of 15 or more receive \$2.25 off \$22.50 tickets, \$1.75 off \$17.50 tickets, and \$3.50 off \$12.50 tickets. Ten percent discount on tickets purchased at the Pine Knob/Palace box offices with a Magic Kingdom Card.

know the repertoire real well," he said.

If not already a member, each of the BBSO's musicians was required to join the local musician's union as Pine Knob is a closed shop. Yet the union status made for a significant pay day for each member.

"There's an important function for a smaller orchestra," Ward Lamphere said. "To play for the joy of playing — to be part of the fabric of the community; that's very important."

"Pine Knob is a wonderful opportunity," added Carla Lamphere. "But the mission is to, through music, help people alleviate their fears. The world is so stressed; it's important to step back and relax with a wonderful concert."

Stewart Franke, a musician and free lance writer, has a special interest in modern music.

Ernie Harwell joins concert lineup

For the first time ever, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will perform two concerts at Greenfield Village in Dearborn on Saturday, July 3, and Sunday, July 4, at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall box office, 833-3700; Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, 271-1620; and Ticketmaster locations. Prices, including parking — adults, \$15; children 6-12, \$7; children 4 and under, free. For information, call 833-3700. To charge tickets, call 645-6666.

Greenfield Village is in Dearborn at 20900 Oakwood, near Southfield and Michigan Avenue. Concertgoers may bring blankets or low-style lawn

chairs for seating on the Village Green.

Special guest conductor Joel Levine will lead the orchestra in these concerts celebrating the period of American history when our country went from a sleepy, 19th century agrarian society to an industrial giant through the birth of the machine age in the 20th century. The concerts will be presented on the Village Green, centrally located among the historic structures of Greenfield Village.

A highlight of the concerts will be a salute to the Great American Pastime — baseball — as Detroit Tigers radio announcer Ernie Harwell of Farmington retells the story of "Casey at the Bat" in a delightful arrangement with

orchestral accompaniment.

The orchestra has planned a tribute to America's history in the two concerts with a program including music of the late 19th and early 20th centuries by such composers as Stephen Foster, John Philip Sousa, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, and George M. Cohan.

Pieces to be performed include — "Strike Up the Band," "The Typewriter," and "Richard Rodgers Waltzes."

Each evening's concert will end with a rousing rendition of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" followed by a spectacular fireworks display above the Village.



Special guest: Ernie Harwell will be featured.

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