

# Nutcracker

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and Dec. 18-19). Tickets available through all Ticketmaster outlets and at the Birmingham Theatre box office, 644-3533. Seats for Friday matinees are \$10 each; prices for all other performances are \$16 for children and seniors, \$17 for adults.

■ Eric Johnston's Detroit Ballet Company will be performing "The Nutcracker" 7 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at Southfield High School, 10 Mile at Lahser. Tickets \$10, call 433-5515.

Johnston is director of the Birmingham Dance Academy. His cast for "Nutcracker" totals more

than 60 professional and developmental dancers; all are either students or instructors at Johnston's studios in Farmington and Birmingham.

■ Rose Marie Floyd's Contemporary Civic Ballet Company, and the Southfield Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Valery Leonov, will present "The Nutcracker," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the newly renovated Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Tickets are \$15 and \$20. Call 466-7610 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

Guest artists are Sabina Al-Lemanni, principal dancer with the

San Francisco Ballet Company, and Sergio Lavilla, principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada.

Santa Claus begins the celebration with his arrival at 1:30 p.m. on a horse driven carriage to deliver the official Nutcracker doll to Clara for the afternoon ballet. Santa will be available for pictures with children 1:15-2:30 p.m. ■ Plymouth Symphony and Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company, present "The Nutcracker" 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3-4, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at Novi High School's Furst Auditorium. Tickets — \$14 adults, \$8

children, reserved seating. Call 451-2112. There will be a Sugar Plum Fair Tea after the Sunday performance. Tickets are \$2.

■ Michigan Ballet Theatre's presentation of "The Nutcracker" with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, will be performed 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Louis B. Schmidt Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Tickets range from \$12 to \$15, call 486-1514.

■ Sugar Plum Fairy Reception after the 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, performance. Call 427-9155 for tickets.

## Festive concerts welcome holiday season

Has the dusting of snow flurries this week put you in the holiday spirit? If it hasn't, these holiday and classical music concerts surely will.

■ Holiday Brass, Detroit Chamber Winds annual season celebration will be presented 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. Call 362-2622.

■ The Pontiac Oakland Symphony and Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will present "A Tribute to Stanley Hollingsworth," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 in the Varner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus in Rochester. Com-

**PREVIEW**

poser Hollingsworth, who joined the OU faculty in 1976, will be retiring at the end of the current season. The tribute program will include some of Hollingsworth's most popular works. Guest appearances will also be made by pianist Flavio Varani, and Suzanne Acton directing the Oakland Chorus. Tickets available at the door, call 370-3013 for information.

■ Oakland University Community Chorus annual Yuletide Concert, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 in Varner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus in Rochester. Call 370-3013.

■ American Artists Series opens

its 24th season 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at Kingwood/Cranbrook in a concert featuring the Chamber Players. There will be no preview lecture at this concert. Call 551-5044 for tickets.

■ The Detroit Oratorio Society and Detroit Chamber Winds will present a complete performance of Handel's "Messiah," with guest conductor Jerry Blackstone and Detroit Symphony Orchestra concertmaster, Emmanuelle Beavent, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, 2215 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills, call 650-2655.

■ Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra joins forces with four soloists, The Temple Beth El Choral, Director Cantor Gail

Hirschenfang and The Cantata Academy, to perform Handel's rarely heard, "Judas Macabaeus," 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at Temple Beth El, 14 Mile at Telegraph, Birmingham. Call 645-2276 for tickets. Tickets will be available at the door the night of the performance.

■ Farmington Community Band holiday concert, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at Harrison High School Auditorium, 12 Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills. Tickets will be available at the door.

■ Dickens of A Carol featuring City Lights, a 75 voice barbershop chorus, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 at Mersey High School Auditorium, 11 Mile at Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Call 625-6211.

■ Oakland University Community Chorus Yuletide Concert, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 in Varner Recital Hall on campus. Call 370-3013.

■ Wayne State University Concert Chorus, Men's Glee Club Winter Concert 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 at North Congregational Church, 26275 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Call 577-1795.

## Marquee

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Sunday, Dec. 5. Regular performances begin 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. Call the theater for additional show times. A signed performance for the hearing impaired will be offered on Dec. 19.

The play is about two brothers who have been estranged for 16 years and must now meet in the attic of their childhood home to dispose of their father's belongings. Directed by JET Artistic Director, Evelyn Orbach, the cast includes Robert Grossman as Victor, one of the brothers.

"Victor's a police sergeant near retirement age," said Grossman during a rehearsal break. "He

hasn't seen his brother, (Walter, portrayed by David Fox, a successful surgeon) in years. Victor has put duty before personal gain." While going through their father's possessions, the brothers learn about the choices they have made in their lives and what they have received in return, and at what cost.

"It's a beautifully written piece," said Grossman. "It's done with a great deal of compassion." Look for Cathie Briedenbach's review of "The Price" next week.

Spend an evening in Latin America, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion. The rhythm of Andean folk

music will blend with jazz and new age sounds in a concert by "Congreso," direct from Chile. A reception featuring empanadas (Chilean meat pies) and Chilean wines by Ismael Duran of Don Ricardo's will follow the concert. Tickets \$20 and include reception. Call 354-4854 for information.

Keely Wygonik is editor of the Taste and Entertainment sections of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She welcomes your calls and comments, 953-2105, fax 691-7279, or write: Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

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**First Night/Birmingham '94** is new and different this year! Shain Park will have outdoor performances all night long around the Celtic Stone Circle, the Oracle and the Resolution Cave Wall! And you can dance the night away to the sounds of *The Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band*, *Nuevo Mundo Jazz Band*, and *The Big Picture* or learn how to Country Line dance. Everyone in your family will enjoy this multi-cultural, community-based, alcohol-free New Year's Eve festival for just \$7! Children under 5 admitted free. Some First Night performances require free performance tickets, available for distribution Dec. 31.

**OUR HEADLINERS INCLUDE:**

Wendell Harrison Jazz Ensemble	Sally Rogers & Howie Bursen Family Oriented Folk Singers	The Winans Family Gospel Singers
Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band	Jeffrey Zook Classical Flutist	
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