

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGONIK

Concerts feature young musicians

With a class load of 18 credits, award-winning pianist/composer Anthony Bonamici said he doesn't have much time for composing but adds things are going well for him at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

He's majoring in math and science and had been up all night studying for a music history test when we talked on the telephone. With the test behind him, Bonamici was relaxed and enthusiastic as he talked about performing in a new addition to the Cranbrook Music Guild Series called "Undiscovered American Artists" on March 1.

"I'm thrilled," he said. "In choosing a program I chose music from a wide variety of time periods from Baroque to post romantic."

A 1992 graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia, Bonamici has won numerous performance competitions locally and nationally and performed extensively in the Detroit area. He has studied piano since he was 5.

"Tony is a remarkable young man who appears to have enormous musical talent and yet is definitely not a prodigy. He accepts his gifts without being impressed with himself and also works at the piano long hours," said Elaine DeWolfe, program director for the Cranbrook Music Guild Chamber Series.

Bonamici's concert 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in the library of Cranbrook House will include works of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Cesar Franck. Tickets are \$15 and available at the door or by calling 751-2435. Cranbrook House is on Lone Pine just west of Cranbrook Road. A reception to meet the artist will be after the concert.

■ Young artists need our support. Don't miss the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony Young Artists Concert 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, in Varner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus in Rochester.

Tickets are \$10 general, \$5 seniors and students and may be purchased through the Music, Theatre and Dance box office at (810) 370-3013.

Seven soloists — all OU students, chosen at the annual Concerto Auditions in December — will perform vocal and instrumental selections with

See MARQUEE, next page

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- Find out what's new at the movies.
- Upcoming plays and concerts in your community.

Battle of sexes wages on in comedy



HUGH GALLAGHER

The more things change, the more they...

George Bernard Shaw, masterful playwright and political wit, had great fun sticking pins in the political correctness of his day. Though Shaw was a socialist, in a rather genteel British fashion, he could aim his barbs in all directions with equal sting.

The Meadow Brook Theatre is presenting a zesty, stylized production of Shaw's still funny, still relevant battle of the sexes comedy "You Never Can Tell."

Though Shaw begins with a tooth extraction, his play is anything but painful. He has a high old time lampooning the feminist movement, the anti-feminist reaction, the British class system, the rudeness of youth, the staidness of age. All these were hot topics in 1896 and are hot topics still 99 years later.

The play, and the production, take a while to pick up steam. The affected British accents are a little too stiff. But once things get rolling they get rollicking.

Mrs. Clandon, feminist author and new age thinker, has returned to England after 18 years in Madame with her three young adult children. She must face the irascible husband she left behind. Add to this mix an unsuccessful roguish dentist, a once free-spirited but now staid solicitor, a wise waiter and a brilliantly goofy barister.

ON STAGE

"You Never Can Tell"

★Theater: Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester.

★Curtain time: 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 17-18, 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 22-23, 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23. Shows through March 6, call theater for times.

★Tickets: Range from \$18 to \$28.50, call 377-3300.

REVIEW

The comic heart of this story is the youngest Clandon children, not quite legally adults. These new age children are quick witted, rude, exasperating and totally winning. Shirley Ann Kaladjian nearly steals the show as the effervescent Dolly. Her face is like putty, twisting into one look after another and her continuing retorts are performed with innocent guile and pinpoint timing.

Frank Polito as brother and co-adjutor Phil keeps pace, especially in their shared word play and verbal games. His cockiness is just right.

This is a production, however, that is also blessed with solid older character actors. Jayne Houdyshell, just recently a triumph in "Shirley Valentine," is a force to be reckoned



Light-hearted comedy: Shirleyann Kaladjian and Peter Gregory Thomson in a scene from "You Never Can Tell" now playing at the Meadow Brook Theatre.

with as Mrs. Clandon. Arthur Beer sputters and growls as the intimidating but really soft-hearted father Fergus. His emotional shifts are hilarious. But it is Will Love who draws the heartiest laughs as the waiter who knows his place. Love's wheezy laugh, twinkling eyes and his impeccable timing on Shaw's sly twists on class prejudice are acting perfection.

The rest of the cast is uniformly enjoyable. The centerpiece lovers, played by Peter Gregory Thomson and Deborah Staples, are burdened with Shaw's weightier views on sexual relations but handle the dialog with aplomb. Paul Hopper is fine as once "hippie" idealist transformed

into uptight lawyer (see how relevant this still is).

Director Carl Schurr, in addition to staging a clear, witty and fast moving production, comes on at the end to give a splendidly off-the-wall performance as the obligatory character who ties it all together for a happy ending. But he does it in the most bizarre fashion. As a director Schurr uses color and artificial sets, by Peter Hicks, to enhance the playfulness of Shaw's story. He also gives us ensemble acting of the highest quality.

Hugh Gallagher is production editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc. He has reviewed films and plays for the past 20 years.

Farmington Players outstanding in drama



MARK S. CARLEY

Perhaps the Farmington Players went through a similar revelation, for their production of this timeless tale of moral failings is outstanding.

Were Miller to see this production, I doubt he would consider it the tightest or most polished "All My Sons," to date, but he would indeed be impressed with the energy, passion and understanding of director Bill Salisbury and his cast.

ON STAGE

"All My Sons"

★Theater: Farmington Players, 32332 Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills.

★Curtain time: 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, through Feb. 25. Matinee 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20. Performances on Feb. 17, 19 and 26 are sold out.

★Tickets: Call 553-2555

REVIEW

The story is that of Joe Keller and his family. Joe (Juel Grossman) is an industrialist and former war profiteer. He is haunted by a terrible mistake of greed and expedience which cost 21 World War II servicemen their lives.

His former partner is now in jail for the crime. Joe has been exonerated.

Joe's wife Kate (Jan Salisbury) hovers on the brink of a breakdown. She clings to the fantasy that Joe is innocent and that her son Larry, killed during the war, is alive and will return.

George Monticello plays the good, but hopelessly idealistic son Chris. He is ready to marry Larry's old sweetheart, but is afraid for Kate's sake. Accepting the truth about his father could destroy him.

The play revolves around these three characters and three fine performances. Grossman, a semi-pro with credits stretching from here to San Diego, is simply outstanding. His Joe is so real that we want to like him despite his crimes and cowardice.

Less polished, but still riveting are Salisbury and Monticello. Kate's de-

nial of Larry's death and her betrayed loyalty to Joe are painful to watch. Monticello's character has a passionate innocence which makes him admirable and pitiful at the same time.

Nepotism works once again at the Barn, as Salisbury's daughter Lisa Muscivore does a fine turn as Chris's love Ann. John DeMere's intensity makes a small part memorable as he plays George Deever, son of the man who took the rap for Joe's sins.

"All My Sons" is a story without heroes. There are no happy (or even very hopeful) endings here. But, if you like good drama and don't mind using your brain while being entertained, you should not miss this production.

Mark S. Carley is active in local community theater, both onstage and behind the scenes. He is a member of the Birmingham Village Players and Ridgedale Players in Troy.

The CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Kenneth Jean conductor

Philip Sabransky pianist

Hosugi, the Lovers of Rome

Great Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16 Beethoven, Symphony No. 1

Hill Auditorium Tuesday, March 8, 8 p.m.

THE MOSCOW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Vasily Sinaisky conductor

Gil Shabam, violinist

Glinka: Overture to Russian and Ludmilla

Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto

Stravinsky: La sacre du printemps (The Rite of Spring)

Hill Auditorium Friday, March 18, 8 p.m.

"The Moscow Philharmonic retains a distinctive Russian quality...long may such characterful music making live" — The New York Times



313.764.2538

Together Time



Enjoy a Marriott Two For Breakfast* Weekend, available Thursday* through Sunday nights, with breakfast included. Call your travel agent for reservations, or 1-800-USA-WKND.

Marriott HOTELS-RESORTS-SUITES

Two For Breakfast* Weekend rates are available at over 180 participating locations.

From \$49

PROPERTY RATE

MICHIGAN

The Dearborn Inn Across from Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum. 313/271-2700 \$89

Detroit Metro Airport Located in Detroit Metro. 313/941-9400 \$79

Livonia Attached to Laurel Park Place. 313/462-3100 \$79

Romulus Minutes from the Detroit Airport. 313/729-7555 \$49

Southfield Close to the heart of Detroit. 313/356-7400 \$49

Call your travel agent for reservations or 1-800-USA-WKND

Have it All!