

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYOGNIK

Audience cheers LSO with standing ovation

You may have missed a good concert Saturday at Churchill High School in Livonia. The Livonia Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of guest conductor Volodymyr Scheslik, and pianist Leszek Bartkiewicz, presented a concert of Slavic classics.

Scheslik who is Ukrainian, and Bartkiewicz, who is Polish, put their hearts into the program which included Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 in G minor "Winter Reveries," and Frederic Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor.

Mykola V. Lysenko's "Overture to Tamas Bulme," which is based on Ukrainian folk themes, brought the audience to their feet for a standing ovation.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is sponsoring a Mystery Dinner Theater Saturday, March 5, at Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, 3900 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Cocktails will be served at 7:15 p.m., dinner at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person, and are available at the PCAC office, 332 S. Main St. in Plymouth, 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Or call the office, 455-5260 or Randy Lee, 459-5572 for ticket information.

Monday, Feb. 28 is the deadline to register for the sixth annual Chef's Seminar for Sophisticated Cooks to be presented Monday, March 7, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. The cost is \$150 per person and includes lunch. Eight separate sessions are being offered; participants will be able to select two sessions in the morning, and two in the afternoon. Call 462-4448 for more information or to register.

Featured chefs include Kevin Brennan of Orchard Lake Country Club, Peter Ashcraft of Charley's Crab, Keith Joseph of the Rattlesnake Club and Stelling at Somerset, James Pecherski of Cocinola de Sol, Mary Brady of Diamond Jim Brady's, Lorraine Platan of Sweet Lorraine's Cafe, Tim Cakra of Morels: A Michigan Bistro, and Peter Loren of Opus One.

Detroit Chamber Winds Night Notes Series presents the Sutherland Ensemble, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at Hagonium House of Rugs in Birmingham. Refreshments 6 p.m., concert 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$12, call 362-2622.

Southfield's Cultural Arts Division of Parks and Recreation presents Mr. Rudy in the Kids Koncerts series 1:30-2:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 in Room 115 of the Southfield Civic Center, 26000

See MARQUEE, next page

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- Winners of the "My Girl 2" — "Tell us about your first kiss" contest
- Upcoming plays and concerts in your community.

Concert features outstanding pianist

■ Cranbrook Music Guild features pianist Anthony Bonamici in a new addition to the series called "Undiscovered American Artists."

BY KEELY WYOGNIK
SENIOR WRITER

Livonia Symphony audiences are well acquainted with Anthony Bonamici's talent. The secret is out, and word is spreading about this talented young musician, who will present a solo piano concert Tuesday in a new addition to the Cranbrook Music Guild Chamber Series called "Undiscovered American Artists" on March 1.

"I'm thrilled," said Bonamici, who presented a concert with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra in September, and has performed extensively in the Detroit area with several youth orchestras, Schoolcraft Wind Ensemble, and the Lyric Chamber Ensemble.

"In choosing a program, I chose music from a wide variety of time periods from Baroque to post-romantic, including works of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Cesar Franck."

Cranbrook Music Guild Chamber Series program director Elaine DeVolve said Bonamici is "certainly one of the most gifted young musi-

IN CONCERT

"Anthony Bonamici"

★Presented by Cranbrook Music Guild in the library of Cranbrook House on Leno Pine Road, west of Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills.

★Concert time: 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 1.

★Tickets: \$15, available at the door, or call 751-2435. Reception to meet the artist follows concert.

PREVIEW

clans in Michigan, and his career will be watched with great local interest. His talent at composing is of special interest, something not seen often in young artists today."

Bonamici, a 1992 graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia, has studied piano since he was 5. Prior to college, he studied several years with professor Donald Morelock in Ann Arbor.

Now a freshman at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, Texas, Bonamici studies piano performance with John Perry.

Bonamici has won numerous performance competitions locally and nationally including the 1991 Yamaha/Music Teachers National Association High School Piano



Outstanding pianist: Rising star, Anthony Bonamici, will perform at the Cranbrook Music Guild Series concert on Tuesday.

Competition. He won the 1992 William Schuman Prize at the 40th International BMI Student Composer Competition for his piano quartet. Competing against 352 contestants up to age 25, Bonamici was awarded first prize for the score judged most outstanding.

During past summers, Bonamici has sharpened his skills in piano, music theory and composition at the Aspen School of Music, Interlochen

Music Camp, and Oberlin Conservatory of Music. While a student at the famed Aspen School of Music he performed his Piano Quartet.

This summer he will visit Moscow for a three-week study and performance tour sponsored by the International Fine Arts Institute.

The Cranbrook Music Guild Chamber Series continues April 5 with a concert featuring the Lafayette String Quartet.

Cast does a good job in 'Guys and Dolls'



VICTORIA DIAZ

appearing.

With music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, "Guys and Dolls" is, as you'll remember, a story about a zany gang of Runyonese card sharks, horse players, etc. who hang around the sidewalks of New York, and eventually meet up with a group (also zany) from a Salvation Army mission. Romance plays a large part, of course. After all, this is musical comedy.

Adam Carey is the suave Sky Masteron, who eventually wins the hand of the Salvation Army's Sister Sarah Brown (played here rather inconsistently by Lisa Brandow). Carey has a pleasant voice and a distinctly appealing way with a song. In the acting department, he does a good job, too (although one sometimes wishes his sky was a bit more "shady" and a little less sweet).

The irrepressible Ivory McKay

ON STAGE

"Guys and Dolls"

★Theater: Plymouth Theatre Guild at the Water Tower Theatre on the campus of Northville Regional Hospital, west of I-275 between Hagerty and Northville Roads.

★Curtain time: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 25-26, March 4-5, March 11-12; 6 p.m. Sunday, March 6. Performance on March 11 will have a sign language interpreter.

★Tickets: Adults \$10, seniors and youth \$3. Call 349-7110.

plays Nicely-Nicely Johnson, one of the most lovable crooks you'll ever encounter. When McKay is onstage, his sense of fun is of epidemic proportions. His appearances seem to literally energize this cast and, consequently, the audience benefits, of course. His big number, "Sit Down, You're Rockin' The Boat," is a veritable showstopper.

Stephanie L. Hindmarsh as the frustrated songstress, Miss Adelaide, punches up this production too. A gifted comic who can really belt out a song, she's also cute as a button, even

when she's wearing some pretty frowzy costumes.

Nathan Detroit, a character afflicted with probably the worst fear of matrimony in the history of musical theater, is played by John Jordan. Although Jordan is fun to watch, his portrayal of Nathan seems slightly off the mark. Isn't "good old reliable Nathan" in fact about as slick and slippery as a sewer rat? Here, he just seems flustered and overwrought most of the time, which is kind of funny in itself, but is it Nathan Detroit?

Jeanette Sowman, as Sister Arvine Abernathy, has an especially nice moment with Loesser's fine creation, "More I Cannot Wish You." And Wendy Siefaff, along with Brandon Gauvin, Amber Thrift, and Andrea Gauvin as Gen. Cartwright and her sidekicks, are always a riot.

In general, the sizable supporting cast of "Guys and Dolls" does a good job.

Peripherals are a little spotty, although clever sets amount to some first-rate fun.

Much of the show's disappointment has simply to do with the exasperating acoustics at the Water Tower Theatre. The snappy dialogue — so much a part of the fun in "Guys and Dolls" — is often lost to the audience. Even more regrettable, many of Loesser's great lyrics are lost too.

Also, though musical director and conductor Cheryl A. Bubar appears to try hard, her musicians often fail to do right by Loesser's splendid tunes. It's not that they bungle the music or miss cues or overpower the singers



Musical comedy: Nathan Detroit (John Jordan of Westland) and Miss Adelaide (Stephanie Hindmarsh of Canton) in a scene from "Guys and Dolls."

onstage. It's just that spark and verve needed to really deliver this great score glimmer only now and then. Consequently, this musical comedy, directed and choreographed by Sally Dubats, is left frequently with a very real struggle.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia-based freelancer, who specializes in arts and entertainment articles in the metro area.

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