

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGNON

Events showcase talented young artists

Young musicians and artists need our support and encouragement. Encourage your children to become involved in the arts by taking them to concerts, plays and art exhibits.

Some of the finest students in metro Detroit will be performing music from their ethnic backgrounds, as well as music by American composers, 4 p.m. Sunday, March 20 at Varner Recital Hall, on the campus of Oakland University, in Rochester. Tickets are \$10, students, \$5. Call 689-3459.

The Detroit Musician's League represents teachers and students from metro Detroit including Livonia, West Bloomfield, Troy and Bloomfield Hills. On the program are compositions for piano, violin, viola and flute from the four continents. "The concluding work, Dave Brubeck's 'They All Sang Yankee Doodle,' for two pianos, unifies the diverse ethnic origins that make up this country," said Rollin.

Participating students are pianists Mark Hadley, Rebecca Chen, Vickie Aporenc, Fu-zu Jen, Michael Wang, Yi-Chun Kuo, Saiko Suzuki, LeeAnn Bess, Katie Davidson, violinist Roger Divine, flutist Jennifer Tittjung and violinist Jason Chan. The Chinese American Educational and Cultural Center of Michigan presents a reception to honor Farmington Hills artist Bill Zheng, 4-6 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at Oceanic restaurant, 29900 Van Dyke, Warren. Buffet dinner will follow reception. Call (810) 574-1423 for reservations. Titled "My Past, My Future," the exhibit will continue through March 30. Restaurant hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Zheng, 16, was born in China and won a scholarship to the Interlochen Arts Academy in 1992. He has won many awards and scholarships for his work.

While doing research on the real Annie Oakley, Sitting Bull, Buffalo Bill and Frank Butler for their production of "Annie Get Your Gun," 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 18-19, and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 20, students at Mery High School in Farmington Hills discovered the existence of the Annie Oakley Foundation. Annie Oakley's great niece, Bess Edwards lives in Greenville, Ohio where Annie was born, and is coming to Farmington Hills to visit the students. Edwards is also attending opening night of Mery's presentation of "Annie Get Your Gun." Don't miss this fine production, tickets are \$8, students and seniors, \$5. Call 476-3270. Mery High School is at 29300 Eleven Mile Road.

See MARQUEE, next page

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- What's new at the movies.
- Upcoming plays and concerts in your community.

Fine cast true to tradition of 'Fiddler'

■ "Fiddler on the Roof" presented by Nancy Gurwin Productions at the Jewish Community Center captures the warmth of this timeless tale.

BY EILEEN OXLEY
SPECIAL WRITER

Whoever said good things come in small packages had a point. What the intimate Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre lacks in size it makes up for in soul.

That soul inhabits Nancy Gurwin's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" presently playing at the theater nestled within the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. And Gurwin's interpretation, like a line from the beloved Sheldon Harnick — Jerry Bock musical, "keeps its balance in tradition."

"It's pretty true to script — we haven't added or taken anything away," said Gurwin. The show is directed and choreographed by Kahl Bush.

The timeless and touching story of Tevye, a poor Jewish dairyman who struggles to survive in 1905 Czarist Russia, is set against the greater backdrop of that era in which a series of pogroms (persecutions) were organized to drive out the Jews.

It's all about change and, in Tevye's case, his three daughters and their courtships provide a metaphor for that inevitable alteration which may not be such a bad thing. They pick men they love and, in varying degrees of rebellion, turn their backs on the old venerable way of matchmaking by embracing the new one of choice.

The realization serves to transform Tevye who, by accepting change, is able to keep his cherished memories but face the future with hope even as he and his family join the mass exodus of Jews who are being expelled from their homeland.

ON STAGE

"Fiddler on the Roof"

★ Theater: Nancy Gurwin Production at the Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre, Jewish Community Center, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield.

★ Curtain time: 8:15 p.m. Saturday, March 19, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, March 20.

★ Tickets: General admission \$15, senior citizens, \$12.50, children \$10. Call 551-7634, 354-0545 or 645-6666.

REVIEW

The fiddler, delightfully portrayed by 12-year-old violinist Aaron Lewin, steps out from the show's side-stage orchestra occasionally (a neat technique) to reinforce that bittersweet message of nothing-ever-stays-the-same-ness through playing the same snatch of amorous music.

The rest of the cast is excellent with several noteworthy performances. Jac Cortes may not be a fiery Tevye, but his warmth and earthiness are certainly endearing, especially when he sings the tender duet "Do You Love Me?" with Diana Reynolds who plays his long-suffering wife Golda with humor and depth.

All the daughters are good with Janet Patton adding a touch of sweet teenaged vulnerability as the youngest, Chana, and Susan Goodman Friedman playing a perky Hodel.

But special accolades must be given to two professional actors who shine above the rest — Paul Silver, a 10-year veteran of the Michigan Opera Theatre, gives a flawless performance as Perchik, the revolutionary student who falls in love with Hodel. And Nina Kircher, who's also had considerable acting experience, makes a wonderfully kitzbittz Yentle, the story's matchmaker.



Leading role: Jac Cortes of Keego Harbor stars as Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof."

Some of the best lines are hers as when Golda remarks that Tzeitel and Motel (Kors Van Mourik), a penniless tailor who later marries Tzeitel, still "play like children."

"From such children come other children," responds Kircher with admonishment.

Nice touches include the simple, but functional set, and the orchestra composed of keyboard, flute, clarinet and violin which music director Carol Mihalo said she tried to make "as ethnic sounding as possible."

The small band carries many of the show's enchanting tunes including "Matchmaker," "If I Were a Rich Man," and the five-hankle favorite "Sunrise, Sunset."

Like that last song, the Gurwin production of "Fiddler" will leave you "laden with happiness and tears."

Eileen Oxley of Lake Orion is a freelance writer who specializes in the arts.

Concerts feature outstanding musicians

Here's a sampling of noteworthy classical music concerts to be presented in Observer & Eccentric communities.

■ The American Artists Series will feature an outstanding selection of chamber works performed by the American Artist Series Chamber Players 3 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at Kingswood Auditorium on the Cranbrook campus in Bloomfield Hills. A preview lecture at 2 p.m. is included in the ticket price of \$13.50 for adults, \$7.50 students. Call 851-5044.

The program will include trios by Ernest Chausson, Aram Khachaturian and Marcelle de Manziari, along with "Impromptu for Flute, Oboe and Clarinet" by Malcolm Arnold and

PREVIEW

"Quartet for Oboe, Violin and Cello" by Arnold Cooke.

The AAS Chamber Players include Joann Freeman, pianist, series founder and artistic director; and six members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra — Donald Baker, oboe; Marguerite Deslappie, violin; Hart Hollman, viola; Ervin Monroe, flute; Theodore Olsen, clarinet; and John Thurman, cello.

Making a brief appearance after intermission will be 10 young, talented violinists from Suzuki Royal Oak, including Kate and Stephen Kosack of

Birmingham and Ari Shwayder of Farmington Hills.

The regular program will continue after the Suzuki Royal Oak musicians have performed "Players" by Sarasate and "Dancing Doll" by Poldini, transcribed by Kreisler. This is part of the group's fund-raising effort to allow members to accept an invitation from Disneyland to perform at EPCOT Center in April and give a second concert at a school in Orlando.

Those attending who wish to contribute can make checks out to SRO Fund Raising. Others who would like to help should send checks to SRO Fund Raising, c/o Mark Mutter, 323 Aqua Court, Royal Oak 48073. Call

851-5044 for information.

■ The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra will showcase Young Artist Competition winners Rachel LaJoie and John Gage, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at Temple Beth El, 14 Mile at Telegraph in Bloomfield Township. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 students younger than 19. Call 645-2276. Tickets will also be at the door beginning at 7 p.m.

Titled "Spring Fling," the concert will feature Anderson's "The First Day of Spring," Grainger's "Irish Tune from County Derry," Delius' "On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring," and Rimsky-Korsakoff's

See CONCERTS, next page

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