

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGNON

Readers share memories of Birmingham Theatre

One of the classiest New Year's Eve Mary of Farmington Hills ever spent was in 1986 at the Birmingham Theatre. "My husband and I were just married, and my mom was recently widowed. We all went to see 'The Fiddler on the Roof.' My mom and I were in awe of the stage, the set, the ladies in their furs and jewels. Afterwards we had a wonderful dinner."

Other readers also called to say how much they'll miss the theater which is scheduled to close after the Birmingham Jazz Fest performance starring Joe Williams on July 30. "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," continues its run at the theater through June 12.

Lois and her husband subscribed from the day they opened. Her husband passed away four-and-a-half years ago, but Lois retained the seats and took friends along to see the shows. "I deeply regret the closing," she said. "I love my theater and the convenience of having it in the heart of Birmingham. I hope whatever happens brings back live entertainment."

A longtime user called and said she wasn't surprised by the closing. "The talent was poor and uneven, and the tickets sometimes as much as \$35, were too much for some people to afford," she said. "In my experience the theater was rarely half full. I never felt the Netherlands had their heart in it."

These were just a few of the comments. I appreciated hearing from all of you. I've said it before, and I'll say it again, this is your newspaper, we're here to serve you, and be your sounding board.

Readers who called last week learned from my Voice Mail message that I was on vacation. I'll embarrass my brother Mike Kaleski a little by mentioning that I was visiting him in Nashua, New Hampshire to attend his graduation from Franklin Pierce College. We're all very proud of his accomplishments.

If you've never been, New Hampshire, called the "Granite State" is beautiful. There are rolling hills and lots of pine trees. You can get a great lobster dinner, but there aren't outdoor concert venues like Meadow Brook and Pine Knob, which Mike says he misses a lot. You know that old saying about not appreciating what you have in your own backyard? It's true.

The Meadow Brook Music Festival in the 7,500-seat outdoor amphitheater on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester opens June 18 with

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.

Festival celebrates community spirit

■ Area business leaders have teamed up with St. Hugo of the Hills and Temple Beth El to present a chamber music festival.

By KEELY WYGNON  
STAFF WRITER



Here's an event you won't want to miss: the first Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, a series of six concerts to be held June 11-18 at Temple Beth El and St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills.

Festival organizers are confident that it will become an annual event that celebrates the spirit, diversity and character of the people in our area. The 2 p.m. Sunday, June 12, outdoor concert at St. Hugo of the Hills is free.

Season tickets for the festival are \$60 (\$50 for students and senior citizens). Single tickets range from \$10 to \$18. Series concert tickets are available by calling (810) 362-2622 and all Ticketmaster outlets.

Area business leaders Joseph Antonini, chairman of Kappa Corporation; Dean Friedman, President of Robert Solomon and Associates Advertising Agency in Bloomfield Hills, have joined with Rabbi Dan Polish of Temple Beth El, the Rev. Monsignor Anthony Tocco of St. Hugo of the Hills, and the Chamber Music Society of Detroit to create the summer musical event featuring internationally acclaimed pianist, James Tocco.

James Tocco enjoys a worldwide career as a recitalist, orchestral soloist, and chamber musician. Born of Italian parents in Detroit, his love of music, especially opera, began in childhood. At six he started studying the piano and made his first orchestral appearance, performing Beethoven's Concerto No. 2 at 12. He is eminent scholar/artist-in-residence at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and Professor of Piano at the Musikhochschule in Lubeck, Germany.

"This festival enhances the quality of life in the communities we serve,"

PREVIEW

said Antonini at a festival preview reception. "We're happy to launch a tradition."

Like most great things, the festival was an idea, a seed that sprouted roots and was nourished by Antonini, Friedman, Polish, Tocco, his brother, James, and the Detroit Chamber Music Society.

While visiting his brother, James said "What a wonderful place this would be for a festival, but we need a temple."

"I said I have the rabbi and the I have the temple, and we went to work," said Tocco. "There is a lot of discussion that goes on before you reach a consensus, this project got instant support."

The concept of a collaboration between St. Hugo of the Hills and Temple Beth El began with discussions between Tocco and Polish. Secular in nature, the festival is intended to be an ongoing event.

"There is no place in the U.S. where a Jewish congregation and a Catholic Church are working together on a project of this magnitude, and this deserves to be celebrated," said Polish. "It's important on a human level to see these two communities blend together and form friendships. It's an important musical and civic event, we are bringing the community together."

Hosting a festival is an enormous task. An advisory committee was formed comprised of volunteers from each of the collaborating organizations. Chaired by the committee from St. Hugo's are Kathleen and Joseph Antonini, along with Ariva and Dean Friedman from Temple Beth El. James Tocco is the festival's artistic director.

He will be performing at the festival with a cadre of remarkable performers including the Detroit Chamber Winds, an ensemble of musicians from the ranks of the Detroit Symphony and Michigan Opera Theatre orchestras; violinist Miriam Fried; violinist/violist Paul Bias; cellist Nathaniel Rosen; the Amernet



Featured performers: The Amernet String Quartet, composed of Japanese violinist Kyoko Kashiwagi, (left to right), American violinist Marcia Littley de Arias, Scottish violinist Malcolm Johnston, and Mexican cellist Javier Arias-Flores will be performing at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival.

String Quartet; and Gail Hirschenfang.

Here are highlights about the featured performers.

■ Fried has played with virtually every major orchestra. She won the Paganini International Competition and was the first woman to win the Queen Elizabeth International Competition.

■ Rosen is the first American ever to win the Gold Medal at the Tchaikovsky International Competition.

■ Bias, a professor at Indiana University, is a former member of the

Berkshire Quartet and an active performer throughout North America and Europe.

■ The Amernet String Quartet was recently awarded first prize at both the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition and the Tokyo International Music Competition.

■ Hirschenfang, soprano, has appeared as a soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Buffalo Philharmonic. She is the cantor at Temple Beth El.

Outstanding chamber music groups, soloists to perform

Don't miss the opportunity to hear outstanding musicians perform a variety of music at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, June 11 to 18. A series of six concerts are planned, three at Temple Beth El and three at St. Hugo of the Hills.

Temple Beth El is on the corner of Telegraph and 14 Mile Road. St. Hugo of the Hills is on the corner of Opdyke and Hickory Grove. Call (810) 362-2622 or Ticketmaster, (810) 645-6666.

Here's the concert schedule.  
■ 8 p.m. Saturday, June 11, Temple Beth El — Detroit Chamber Winds,

James Tocco, piano. Fanfare from "La Perle" by Dukas, Suite from "Don Giovanni"; Mozart: Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments, Stravinsky; Summer Music, Barber; and Rhapsody in Blue, Gershwin.

■ 7 p.m. Sunday, June 12, St. Hugo of the Hills Chapel — Nathaniel Rosen, Amernet String Quartet. Suite No. 1 for unaccompanied cello, Bach; String Quartet, op. 3, Berg; and Cello Quintet in C Major, op. 163, D. 956, Schubert.

■ 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 14, Temple Beth El — Tocco, Rosen, Gail Hirschenfang, Amernet String Quartet.

La Creation du Monde, Milhaud; Il Tramonto, Respighi; Sonatina No. 5 in D Major for piano and cello, Beethoven; String Quartet in F Major, Ravel.

■ 8 p.m. Thursday, June 16, Temple Beth El — Miriam Fried, Paul Bias, Tocco, Jonathan Bias, 14, piano. Sonatina for violin and piano, op. 100, Dvorak; Duo for violin and viola, K. 423, Mozart; Jeux d'Eau (1901), Ravel; Ballade 1 in G minor, op. 23, Chopin; Sonata in A Major for violin and piano, Franck.

■ 2 p.m. Sunday, June 12, St. Hugo of the Hills — Detroit Chamber Winds Brass Ensemble. Free outdoor concert.

■ 8 p.m. Saturday, June 18, St. Hugo Sanctuary — Fried, Bias, Rosen, Stephen Molina, double bass, Tocco, Hirschenfang, Laurence Liberson, clarinet, Sonatina in G Minor for violin, cello, Schubert; Notturmo for violin, piano, and piano, Schubert; Shepherd on the Rock for soprano, clarinet and piano, Schubert; Quintet in A Major for piano and strings "Trout", Schubert.

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