

# Joyous holiday concerts showcase outstanding talent

Enjoy the sounds of the holiday season. The Livonia Symphony, Redford Symphony and Farmington Area Philharmonic are among the groups that will be performing this weekend. Look for them in the list that follows.

■ "Around the World at the Holidays" featuring the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Church Hill High School's James P. Carli Auditorium, (Newburgh at Joy Road) Livonia. Concert of seasonal favorites with the Clarenceville High School Choir and guest conductor Volodymyr Scheatuk. Dancers from the Bunny Sanford School of Dance will also perform. Concert concludes with audience participation in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Tickets \$12; senior (age 62 and older) \$8; students, \$6. Call (313) 421-1111 or (313) 424-2741.

■ Farmington Area Philharmonic presents their holiday pops concert — "The Nutcracker & Other Sweets," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, in the Farmington Hills Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt. Tickets \$15, senior citizens, \$12, children under 12, \$5, available at all Metrobank locations, and by calling (810) 478-2075.

The musical centerpiece of the concert will be Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite," intermingled

with narrations from the original story by E.T.A. Hoffman. Other narrations will include excerpts from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," and Clement C. Moore's "A Visit from St. Nick." Also on the program is a Mannheim Steamroller arrangement of "Deck the Halls," and Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride." There will also be a sing-along arranged especially for this concert by music director, Karen Nixon Lane.

The concert, sponsored by Target Stores, will be presented in the Philharmonic's popular "theme" concert format, with decorated concert room and complimentary refreshments. ■ Madonna University Choral presents their annual concert 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, Pelican Motherhouse Chapel. There is no charge. Call (313) 591-5097 for information.

■ Farmington Community Band will present "Holiday College," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Harmon Hill School auditorium on 12 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Roads in Farmington Hills. The concert band, jazz/dance band, and several small ensembles, will play a collection of holiday classics. Tickets available at the door. Call (810) 476-5014 or (810) 489-3412 for information.

■ Redford Civic Symphony presents its annual Christmas concert with the St. Valentine Choir, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 at St. Valentine Church, on Beech Daly, south of Five Mile in Redford. The program includes Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite," Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," and a sing-along at the end of the program.

■ Nardin Park United Methodist Church presents the Brezale Denard Choral in concert 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11. The church is at 29887 W. Eleven Mile, just west of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$5. Call (810) 478-8860.

■ Motor City Metro Chapter of The Barbershop Harmony Society presents "Home for the Holidays," a concert of barbershop and holiday classics 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9-10 at Mercy High School Auditorium, 11 Mile at Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Call (810) 625-6211 or (810) 634-1332 (evenings) for tickets.

■ Christmas celebration, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Historic Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser Road at Grand River. Program features Tony O'Brien with the Detroit Handbell Ensemble, Maria Nazarenko, soprano and Ray Shuster, tenor. Tickets \$8. Call (313) 487-9638.

■ Cool Yule will be presented by

Farmington Community Chorus 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16-17, at Harrison High School, 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake Road and Middlebelt.

Tickets \$6, senior citizens and students \$5, children 10 and under \$3. Tickets will be sold at the door on an availability basis. Call (810) 474-4516.

■ Julie Rose of Redford is one of the singers performing Handel's "Messiah," 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16 at St. Clement Roman Catholic Church, 5275 Kenilworth, Dearborn, (one block south of Ford Road, two streets east of Chase). The performance will feature the 25-voice DeHaven Choral and Chamber Orchestra. Tickets are \$7 each, \$5 for children 12 or younger, available in advance or at the door. Call (313) 581-7495 for information.

■ Schoolcraft College Community Choir presents "Echoes of Christmas" 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church (Six Mile between Merriam and Middlebelt) in Livonia. The concert will feature the ensemble "Solid Brass," traditional holiday favorites and a Christmas Carol sing-along. The Schoolcraft College Chamber Singers will also perform. Tickets are \$4 each. Call (313) 462-4448.



Music director: Karen Nixon Lane, music director of the Farmington Area Philharmonic, arranged a sing-along for the group's Dec. 11 concert.

■ Livonia Civic Chorus, featured in our photo above, will present its 30th annual Christmas concert, "A Christmas Wish," 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia. There is no admission charge.

## LET'S GO! DINING

### Restaurants offer festive dinners

Here are some holiday dining adventures you won't want to miss.

■ Cafe Cordina, 30175 W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills, is offering a Christmas Eve dinner — 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24. Warm, cozy dinner served in various courses with guests selecting a choice of entree. Cost \$48 per person, call (810) 474-3033 for reservations.

■ The Lark is hosting an Old English Holiday Feast, 7 p.m. Monday Tuesday, Wednesday, Dec. 12-14 and Dec. 19-21. Holiday repeat will be accompanied by live music, including madrigals and carols. The main dish is roast fresh goose with port wine sauce. Cost is \$75 per person and does not include beverages or gratuity. The Lark is at 8430 Farmington Road, West Bloomfield. Call (810) 681-4468 for reservations.

■ Gentili's Hole-in-the-Wall restaurant in downtown Northville is celebrating the holidays with two special events — lunch with Santa and a kid's Christmas show, and "Christmas Capers," a dinner theater presentation. Call (810) 439-0552 for reservations and information.

After lunch, served 11:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11; Dec. 17-18, treat your children to a sleigh.

"Santa is Missing!" It's only a few days until Christmas and no one can find Kris Kringle. It's up to Santa's elves to find him. But

### Twisted tale lots of fun

A comic, musical twist on a classic old tale will happen Dec. 14-17 when Off Broadway Productions presents the madcap, whodunit, "A Fractured Christmas Carol."

The show runs Wednesday, Dec. 14 through Saturday, Dec. 17 at the Paramount, 1985 Cass Lake Road, Waterford. The cost is \$20 per person. Dinner begins 7 p.m., curtain is 8 p.m. Call (810) 682-0540.

An original spoof written, produced and directed by husband and wife team Beth and

David Nelson of Waterford, the show lets players have a "Dickens of a time." The cast includes Julie Yolles of Birmingham.

In the show, Scrooge is murdered and the audience must help the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future discover who killed him.

Was it Bob Cratchit, his clerk? Tiny Tim, who wants money for an operation so that he can walk? Lucy Cratchit who, like everyone else, hated Scrooge, or Fred Scrooge, the old geezer's nephew?

when they finally do find him, they are in for the ride don't believe in him anymore because he isn't cool. So he tries to hype up his image with hilarious results. The cost is \$10.99 for adults, \$9.99 for children.

"Christmas Capers," is running through Dec. 31. The cost for dinner and show is \$37.10 per person, (includes tax and tip).

It's Christmas Eve 1959 and WGEN, a down and out television station is once again preparing for a live Christmas Eve special. Unfortunately, when the station

presents a holiday brunch on the lighter side at 10:45 a.m. Dec. 11 at Detroit's Gem Theatre and featuring Measure for Measure. A manager announces that after this show the entire staff will be fired, it's just the beginning of their problems. Between the drunk boss, a frantic stage manager, and inept crew, they must somehow put together a live television show. Along the way they sing songs, create hilarious situations, make some of the audience members television stars and maybe even learn what Christmas really means.

■ The Lyric Chamber Ensemble

Men's Choral Society. The 65-member, Ann Arbor-based group will perform sacred and secular songs from around the world and will be directed by Leonard Riccinto of Eastern Michigan University.

Tickets are \$22 and \$20 with brunch, \$2 less for seniors and students, or \$15 for just the concert. Call (810) 357-1111.

■ Henry Ford Estate, a national historic landmark on the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, has scheduled a variety of events. Call (313) 593-5590 for reservations.

"Holiday Luncheon Concerts" are scheduled 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 9, 13 and 16. Visitors are treated to classical and holiday music. Tickets \$17.

"Santa's Workshop" will be offered 5-6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16 and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 17. Children follow lights and path to Santa's workshop, visit Santa, and receive a gift and cup of hot oyster soup. The workshop begins at the Visitor Center. Admission is \$5.

"Candles and Carols Dinner," 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Before dinner, guests are encouraged to tour the residence. Music and candlelight accompany the dinner. Admission is \$35.

"Candlelight Tour and Buffet," will be offered 6:30-7:45 p.m. Dec. 26-28. The tour is \$7 and the buffet is \$18.

## Musical brings 'Pinocchio' to life

Todd E. Bear Productions and Nancy Gurwin will present "Pinocchio" the musical, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 in Shiffrman Hall at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 West Maple, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$5 per person. Call (810) 354-0545 or (810) 352-3729.

"Pinocchio" is the story of a lonely woodcarver, Geppetto, who sings to his newly carved puppet about his hopes for a son to love and cherish. The puppet comes to life, a little

brat, and fiber with a growing nose who learns from the fairies a song about home to become a real boy, but strays from the path.

Not listening, Pinocchio becomes a donkey and is rescued by the fairy and reunited with Geppetto in the throat of a whale. Because of Pinocchio's love of Geppetto, he becomes a real boy.

"Pinocchio" is based on the original story by Carlo Collodi and adapted for the stage by Gurwin.



Musical: Nathan Keen of Beverly Hills as Jimminy Cricket (left to right), Ryan Binder of West Bloomfield, (Pinocchio) and Gary Lee Temple of Plymouth, (Geppetto) in a scene from "Pinocchio."

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