Teacher *from page 1D*

cate notes of a Chopin etude that are like gentle chimes in the wind.

Music is truly a universal language to her. She once taught a young student from Japan who didn't speak English. He later gave her a piece of Japanese art in appreciation.

"This is the beautiful thing, that regardless from what country you come (you can understand music)."

Musical setting

Schild recently moved from Southfield to live with her daughter's family. Parts of the house have been converted into a studio and living quarters for her.

One room contains a cupboard full of music and music books. In the room where lessons are given, a smaller piano is in the room near the black Steinway. The two instruments set the stage for many duets. Schild has given students duets to play with their parents.

Students have given informal recitals, at which ice cream in paper cups was served.

Music lessons are beneficial to students in many ways, Schild said.

"They get organized. It helps with memory retention . . . They learn to concentrate and get to think."

She tells students to put their mind on their music and not on their fingers; to not just play notes.

"Your head is the schoolmaster and your fingers are the students."

Background

Schild was born in Dusseldorf, Germany.

"I said to my parents 'I want to study music.'"

Once as a youngster she saw a famous pianist, Emil von Sauer, who was a student of Franz Liszt, staying at the same hotel where she and her family were staying. She quietly entered the room where the pianist was practicing and listened to him play until she was discovered.

"He didn't like it. I got a terrible scolding."

Schild studied at the Buths-Neitzel Konservatorium under Elizabeth Lents-Tompson, a student of Carl Friedberg. She graduated with honors and received her diploma in piano teaching five days before her 21st birthday.

Schild went on to study with renowned pianist Eduard Erdmann, the head of the Hochschule for Music in Cologne. Her teaching career began with students in Dusseldorf.

After Schild moved to Detroit in 1941, she taught at the Ganapol School of Music for several years and then maintained her own studio and taught at home.

"One of my first students . . . is a grandfather now. He still writes to me."

Several of Schild's students have gone on to become professional pianists.

Involved

Schild joined the Tuesday Musicale, the Music Study Club of Detroit, the Livonia Piano Teachers Forum, the Detroit Musicians League and the Michigan Music Teachers Association. As a member of the latter, she served on the board as a monitor, corresponding secretary and judge for student recitals.

She was on the advisory board of the Piano Teachers Institute at Oakland University. The board was responsible for obtaining outstanding musicians for educational programs for piano teachers.

Schild is still absorbing music, working to keep high standards of teaching. She attends piano master classes, seminars and lectures, and went to the Aspen Music Festival — a gathering of international artists — for seven summers.

"My mother is always learning, always keeping up," daughter Nancy Kott said.

"She is so blessed with her spirit and her zest and her vitality."

Once at Aspen, Schild saw violinist Itzhak Perlman in a drugstore.

"I said, 'Mr. Perlman, your playing is just outstanding.' He was like a child, so modest," Schild said.

Schild is an ardent supporter of the arts and concert-goer. She once wrote an angry letter to a Detroit music critic when she disagreed with a review. Pianist Andre Watts is one of her favorite performers, and she also enjoyed Vladimir Horowitz.

Schild's granddaughter Elizabeth Kott, 9, is one of her students.

"(She says), 'I'm no longer Oma (at the piano), I'm Mrs. Schild,'" Elizabeth said of her piano teacher. "Oma" is German for "grandmother."

JERRY ZOLYNSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Inspiring instructor: *Ilse Schild wanted to study music ever since she was a child in Germany, and has served in the music field in many ways besides teaching. She is active and involved in the arts, attending seminars as well as concerts.*

Treasures auctioned

The Frank H. Boos Gallery will host a holiday auction this week featuring many items from estates and consignors.

The auction, 6 p.m. Dec. 14, will feature paintings, furniture, glassware, silver and decorative arts.

A two-day preview of the sale begins at noon Monday. Preview hours are noon to 8 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday.

The Frank H. Boos Gallery is at 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills.

For more information, call 810-332-1500.

Cactus club wraps up

The Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society will host its big Christmas party and slide show this weekend.

The slide show features pictures of various plants and activities club members participated in throughout the year. There is also a potluck dinner served.

The party is at 2 p.m. Dec. 11 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Campell at 11½ Mile Road in Royal Oak.

For more information, 810-681-4791.

House *from page 1D*

John Richards, is in the Heron Bay community. It features limestone trim, English chimney pots and a graceful gabled roof shingled in natural cedar with copper flashing.

In the two-story formal living room, high ceilings enhance the sounds of the grand piano. The room features French doors that lead to a limestone terrace. Richly decorated in vivid colors of purple, peach, taupe and white, the living room is a wonderful blend of elegance and comfort.

The library is warm and inviting. Deep walnut paneling complements a green marble fireplace banked with poinsettias, and offers a respite for visitors to take solace in its comfortable surroundings. A large bay window overlooks a quaint courtyard.

A beautifully designed kitchen offers traditional sophistication with updated convenience. Glass-paneled cupboards, detailed moldings and hardwood floors blend with the warmth and character of the entire home. The kitchen opens to a large, comfortable family room complete with holiday accessories in coordinating pastel colors.

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