

## Styles from page 1B

Samoa."

"Astor Piazzolla, who was born in 1921 and died in 1992, was the master of Tango Nuevo," said Ortega. "He is well-known for advocating the concept that tango is not just a dance, but should be listened to like a symphony. His music is gaining popularity," she said.

The works, by Piazzolla that will be performed at the festival have never been presented locally.

This concert is also celebrating the music of Michele Ramo, a local composer of Latin Jazz.

Ramo, guitarist, violinist, mandolinist and composer, was born in Mazara de Vallo, Italy. At the age of 13, he began his musical studies and earned his master's degree in violin with the highest honors in 1965 from the Conservatory of Caltanissetta in Italy. He has toured extensively in Europe as a recitalist, and released five albums under his own MRC Records Label: "Tina."

His own Ramo Music Publishing has recently published "The Art of Bossa Nova," and "The Art of Latin Rhythms." On Feb. 23, 1993, Ramo received the "Best Acoustic Guitar Award," and was the winner of the "Jazz Hall of Fame Award," presented by Metropolitan Music Cafe and Record Time during the First Annual Jazz Award Ceremony of Metropolitan Detroit. He is currently performing with vocalist Heidi Hepler, 7:30-11 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, at Phoenix, 588 S. Woodward, Birmingham. Thursday night performance feature "The Ramo Group," an ever changing group performing

as a duo or up to 12 piece Latin Jazz orchestra.

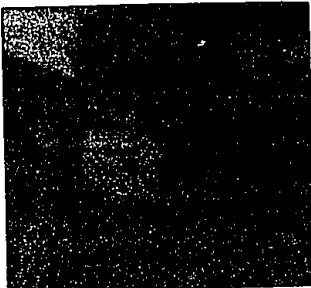
Twenty-eight musicians will be performing at the festival including the Ramo Group with vocalist Heidi Hepler, Marcia Belgrave, trumpet, winner of the 1994 Governor's Arts Award; Peter Soave, bayan virtuoso, the Michigan Classic Ballet Company, and singer, Cecilia Bohorquez of Peru.

The Trio de Paris, 1994 winners of the Grand Prix International Piazzolla Festival in Italy are making their American debut at this festival.

Ortega, Soave and Trio De Paris will also be presenting a concert 8 p.m. Sunday, March 19, at the Kerrymont Concert House in Ann Arbor, call (313) 763-2999 for ticket information; and 8 p.m. Friday, March 24, in the L. John's Theatre on the OCC Royal Oak Campus. Call (810) 544-5588 for ticket information.

■ Farmington Area Philharmonic brings its concert season to a roaring conclusion, 3 p.m. Sunday, March 19, in the auditorium of Mercy High School with "Tchaikovsky!" The concert will feature the colorful "Violin Concerto," sensational "Symphony No. 4," and explosive "1812 Overture," combined with the virtuosity of concertmaster Linda Snedden-Smith.

A violinist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Smith, a resident of Farmington Hills, began violin lessons before her fourth birthday. She studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music. After graduating from high school, she attended the Eastman School of Music and Juilliard



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Any student who attends Sunday's concert with an adult will get in for half-price. If a student comes to the concert with two adults, the student will get in free. "Bringing new listeners to classical music is one of our major goals," said Philharmonic board president Paul Blizman. "And as a terrific way to introduce anyone to the excitement of a live orchestra performance."

The final work on the on the March 19th program will be "1812 Overture," which is also the kick-off of the orchestra's 1995-1996 Annual Fund Campaign. The theme is — "Play Your Part."

"Just as a symphony cannot be performed unless all of the musi-

cians play their part, an orchestra cannot survive in today's world, unless the community plays its part," said music director Karen Nilson Lane.

"The '1812 Overture' will provide a grand ending to this season, as well as an amazing opening fund-raising effort. We are seeking sponsors for each of the 16 cannon shots in the overture. For a gift of \$1,812, the sponsor receives 18 \$12 tickets to the concert and some other very special perks. If this is successful, it will really show that this area is willing to support an orchestra like the Philharmonic. It will be like a shot heard throughout the community." Call the symphony office, (810) 478-2075 for more information.

## Marquee from page 1B

■ Diane Diem of Westland called to tell me about her favorite Chinese take-out restaurant — A

Taste of China, 31509 Joy Road at Merriman, (313) 522-0650. "I go there every week," she said. "The owner is very nice, and the food is very good and colorful. I have not had a bad meal there. My favorite dish is chicken and vegetables with black bean sauce."

■ Judy Patrell of Westland recommends the Acoustic Cafe, 29530 Ford Road, Garden City, (313) 427-9300. "It's a new restaurant and has wonderful atmosphere, along with very good meals. The staff is friendly and courteous. Give it a try!"

Tell us about your favorite restaurant. We'll add it to our list of restaurants to feature in Let's Go!

Keely Wygonik is editor of the Let's Go section of the Observer Newspapers.

## Drama from page 1B

"Dominic is a pretty mobile baby. He adjusts to different people easily. But after a long run of rehearsals, even adults can get exhausted. So as opening night got closer we stopped bringing him to rehearsals. I think that was better for him, and for us too."

Humor helps Lonnie and Nancy cope with their hectic lifestyle. "If all else fails, we follow Dominic's example — roll over, put our thumbs in our mouths and cry!" said Lonnie with a grin.

**Director juggles roles**

Jane Pendell Pfeiffer, director of "Prelude To A Kiss," a Livonia native now living in Dearborn, shares more than friendship and love of theater with the Valentin's — she shares their challenge of juggling roles — director and mother.

She brings one-year-old Jack to rehearsals when her husband, Brad, president of the Players Guild, isn't available for dad patrol.

Since baby Jack arrived on the scene, Jane and Brad, who also met at the Players Guild, have taken turns doing shows.

"It's a lot more fun to do a show together," said Jane. "We've played a married couple twice, and an engaged couple once, in addition to doing other shows together."

A free-lance writer, Jane said she is enjoying her directorial debut, and plans to continue acting. "I love being on stage, and I never want to give that up," she said. "But even though I'm with Jack all day, when I leave him at home to go to the Guild I miss putting him to bed at night. . . it makes me sad to creep in and give him a kiss after a long rehearsal."

Tony Lawrey of Garden City is the Assistant director. ■ Dearborn's Mayor Michael Guido will make a cameo appearance as the minister who marries Peter and Rita March 17, 24 and 26. Guild members will fill the part for the remaining performances.

Guido began his political career on Nov. 7, 1977, when at age 23, he was the youngest person ever elected to the Dearborn City Council. He was elected Dearborn's youngest mayor on Nov. 6, 1985 at the age of 31.

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