

LET'S GO!

Your guide to suburban entertainment

Let's go to the Theater



Let's go Dining



Let's go to the Movies



Let's go Traveling



Let's go listen to Music



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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1995

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYONIK

Shows open Friday at 3 community theaters

Some of us never seem to have enough hours in a day to do everything we want to do. Then there are those busy people who manage to make time for things that are important to them like community theater.

Fran Colucci-Hill of Livonia called to thank everyone for coming out to see the Northville Players production of "The Importance of Being Earnest." We wrote about Hill, who performs in the show with her husband, Dr. Robert A. Hill, and sister, Mary Anne, last week.

"The theater holds about 70 people. The first night we had 25, the second 50," she said.

"The Importance of Being Earnest," continues 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 28-29 at the American Legion Hall, 100 W. Dunlap, corner of Center Street, downtown Northville. Tickets are \$7 for the show or \$20 for Fillet Mignon dinner (available on Saturdays only), and show. Call (313) 453-0391 for reservations.

After practicing lines, building sets, and doing the countless tasks involved in producing a show, it's a nice to have an audience. The curtain rises on these three shows this weekend. All of them are labors of love by busy people who spent countless hours preparing on stage and behind the scenes. Your support means a lot to them.

■ Farmington Players presents "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 28-29, 5 p.m. Sunday/April 30. The show continues Thursday to Sunday to May 20 at the playhouse, 32232 W. 12 Mile Road, between Farmington Road and Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$10, call (810) 553-2955 for curtain times and reservations.

■ Plymouth Theatre Guild continues their season with In Levin's thriller "Deathtrap" 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, April 28 to May 13, 6 p.m. Sun., May 7 at the

See MARQUEE, 2B

Now showing

Dining
Broiled whitefish is a specialty at cozy Sweetwater's Bistro, near the shores of Cass Lake.

Theater
Check out Entertaining Choices to find out what's on stage in your community.

Movies
David Caruso is the best thing going in "Kiss of Death."

Travel
Readers share "Wish You Were Here" pictures and memories of vacations to places near and far away.

Music
Lawn seat patrons at Pine Knob will have another view of the stage this summer with the additions of video screens.

Looking ahead

What's on stage in your community
Plymouth Theatre Guild returns to the stage

Sizzlin' Latin jazz duo is hot!

Together, they produce a unique blend of classical, Flamenco and jazz music with a touch of the exotic



JON JAMFIELD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Talented duo: Vocalist Heidi Hepler and guitarist Michele (Me-KEL-eh) Ramo perform Latin Jazz.

BY MITCH GENOVA
SPECIAL WRITER

Vocalist Heidi Hepler and guitarist Michele (Me-KEL-eh) Ramo of Livonia have been producing some of the most refreshingly new music heard in some time.

"We love what we're doing. Everyday we just have fun," said Hepler. "We really believe in what we're doing. It's teamwork. This is our dream come true."

Hepler has a background in classical music and opera. Ramo is a classically trained concert violinist who taught himself classical guitar and left his native Italy to explore jazz improvisation in the U.S.

Together, they produce a unique blend of classical, flamenco and jazz music with a touch of the exotic. Their music includes tango, rumba, bossa nova, samba, bolero, mambo and cha-cha.

In addition to playing 7-11 p.m. Thursday-Saturday at the Phoenix Restaurant in Birmingham, they're getting ready for a May 13 concert/dinner during the 102nd annual Ann Arbor May Festival.

"This is our third year playing at the festival," said Ramo. "Every

year it gets bigger. It's a great honor to be performing there."

This year, the Ramo Group will be performing at a Gala Celebration Dinner honoring flutist James Galway.

The evening begins with cocktails, followed by dinner, and dancing to the sounds of Latin Jazz with the Ramo Group featuring Ramo, guitar; Hepler, vocals; Marcus Belgrave, trumpet; Phil Lasley, alto saxophone; Roy Brooks, drums; Jerry LeDuff and Jamie Rueling, percussion; Kurt Krahnke, bass and Ian Smith keyboards and piano.

Later that evening, Ramo and Hepler will present a short concert as a duo.

Hepler, Ramo and master percussionist Roy Brooks will perform together this Thursday at Phoenix in Birmingham. The result is a unique and rare combination of musical sounds that redefine the word "magic."

If you don't believe in magic, you haven't heard Brooks play Jerome Kern's "All the Things You Are" on a hand saw. This is no gimmick. In Brooks' hands, the

common household saw acquires a most haunting and lyrical voice, which gives this already beautiful song a new dimension.

Then, accompanied by soft chords from Ramo's guitar, Hepler vocalizes a duet with the saw which is other worldly.

Percussionist Brooks was born in Detroit, and made his mark as a jazz drummer when he joined the Horace Silver Quintet in 1969. Brooks toured and recorded several albums with Horace Silver's highly rhythmic jazz unit, then went on to perform with such jazz greats as Wes Montgomery, Dizzy Gillespie, Dexter Gordon and Charles Mingus.

Meanwhile, Brooks had explored aboriginal percussion instruments and was a founding member of M'Boom, Max Roach's world-famous percussion ensemble. While continuing to perform with M'Boom, Brooks heads three of his own groups, the Aboriginal Percussion Choir, Artistic Truth, and M'Jumbo. He has also recorded a CD "Dust in Detroit."

See JAZZ, 2B

ON STAGE

Ramo Latin Jazz Group
Phoenicia, 583 S. Woodward, Birmingham, (810) 644-3122. Guitarist Michele (Me-KEL-eh) Ramo and vocalist Heidi Hepler perform Latin Jazz 7-11 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Special guest Roy Brooks, Thurs., April 27.

Ann Arbor May Festival
6:30 p.m. Sat., May 13. Gala Celebration Dinner, features The Michele Ramo Jazz Group with Marcus Belgrave, trumpet; Phil Lasley, alto saxophone; Heidi Hepler, vocalist. Tax deductible tickets range from \$150 to \$500 per person, includes cocktails, dinner saluting James Galway, and dancing. Black tie optional. Call (313) 764-2538 or 1-800-221-1229.

Local songsters sing oldies, but goodies

Local songsters will be singing some of your favorite "oldies, but goodies," at springtime concerts.

■ The 130-voice Plymouth Community Chorus, directed by Michael Gross, is presenting "Remember the Song," April 22-30 at Salem High School. This concert features songs from an earlier era including "I Love A Piano," "Make Our Garden Grow," "Sentimental Journey," "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," "More Than You Know," and "Begin the Beguine." Soloists include Orla Mathews, Sherrie Northway, Nancy O'Sullivan, Greg Fuchs, Nancy Whiticar, Sue Peckington, Barb Kobberstad, Cheryl Uplins and Sue Schuler.

Advance tickets are available at Damborn Music, 49679 Ford Road at Lilley, Canton; Evelyn Music, 515 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth; Sideways, 505 Forest, Plymouth; Northville Record, 104 W. Main, Northville, and at the door. Call (313) 455-4080 for more information.

The chorus is also conducting a "Two-for-One" early bird sale of 1995 Entertainment Books. Order a book before May 15 and you'll receive a 1995 book free. Books are \$40 each. Proceeds will go toward financing the chorus' four-day Washington D.C. singing tour in June. To play orders, or for more information, call (313) 459-6829.

■ Livonia Civic Chorus will present its 30th annual spring concert "Shakin' in the Blues Away," May 5-6, at Clarendonville High School, Livonia. This year you'll be entering an unusual medical clinic where there's a medical cure for whatever ails you. Did you say you've had your tonsils removed and then your appendix? Well, why not take "All of Me?" Need a better outlook on life? Then you'd better "Accentuate the Positive." Problems with your love life? Try "Love Potion No. 9."

See SONGSTERS, 2B



DELL DEBILLEN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rehearsing: Plymouth Community Chorus director Michael Gross leads the chorus as they prepare for upcoming concerts.