

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Eisenhower Dance Ensemble presents "Dances for Lovers," 8 p.m. at the Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College, (1-696 at Orchard Lake Road) Farmington Hills. Tickets \$16, (248) 471-7667.

SATURDAY



Suzanne Rogers and Craig Forhan star in The Farmington Players production of "The Heiress." Curtain 8 p.m., 32932 W. 12 Mile Road. Tickets \$8, (248) 553-2955.

SUNDAY



Youtheatre at Music Hall presents "The Color of Justice," a stirring Black History Month drama for family audiences, 2 p.m., 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$7 (advance) \$8 (at the door), call (313) 963-2366.



Hot Tix: American Ballet Theatre presents "Giselle" Thursday, Feb. 5, through Sunday, Feb. 8, at Detroit Opera House, (Madison Avenue at Broadway one block east of Woodward Avenue), Detroit. Tickets range from \$15 - \$62, (313) 874-SING, or (248) 646-6666.



Golden careers (Above) The hallway of Barrett Strong's Grapevine Co. in Southfield is lined with gold records he received for writing several Motown hits including "Ball of Confusion" by The Temptations, and "The Busy Thinking About My Baby" by Marvin Gaye. (Below) Southfield resident Liz Thomas, who performs under the name "Eliza," will perform her single "I Said You'd Be My Only Lover" on the "Jenny Jones Show" Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Motown music maker looks ahead



STORIES BY CHRISTINA FUOCO • STAFF WRITER

MOTOWN MEMORIES

What: The Motown Museum and radio station WXXD-FM (92.3)
 What: Host a party
 When: 8-11 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15
 Where: The Roostertail, the foot of Marquette Drive off Jefferson Avenue, Detroit.
 Why: It's a party for Motown Records' 40th anniversary in conjunction with the ABC-TV special "Motown 40: The Music Is Forever" airing Sunday Feb. 15, and Thursday, Feb. 19.
 How: The \$40 tickets include the party, a membership to the Motown Museum, and light hors d'oeuvres. For more information, call (313) 875-2264. For directions to the Roostertail, call (313) 822-1234.

Other events include:

- The Motown Museum's 2648 Celebration, which will pay tribute to the late Ewart Abner, former president of Motown Records and the owner of Vee-Jay Records, 7 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at the Roostertail. The Miracles are scheduled to perform. Tickets are \$150 and there are sponsorship levels for corporations. For more information, call (313) 875-2264.
- Motown Records has numerous items on its site. It will release "Motown 40 Forever," a 2 CD set on Tuesday, Feb. 17; a special edition of Motown's multi-platinum soundtrack to "The Big Chill"; and all a network documentary about the career of The Temptations. Motown Records can be reached at <http://www.motown40.com>
- The Miracles, The Temptations and The Four Tops tentatively scheduled to perform Thursday-Friday, June 11-12, at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Ticket information soon.

With his bald head and gold earring dangling from his left ear, Barrett Strong makes an impression wherever he goes.

He and his writing partner Liz "Eliza" Thomas walk into a sparsely seated Berkley diner and generate a few looks. The ironic thing is that the glances are for his style not for his notoriety.

Nobody in the restaurant seems to know that Strong, a Grammy Award winner, penned many Motown hits including "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," "Papa Was a Rolling Stone" and "Ball of Confusion."

Down 12 Mile Road, their Southfield office is modest but shines from the gold records lining the hallway. Asked about the gold records, and the Grammy Award for "Papa Was a Rolling Stone" that sits between stacks of papers, Strong fondly recalls his days with Motown.

"You look at it, and then you say, 'I wish those days came back again.' Wow that was great. It was a beautiful time. Detroit was really jumping. I guess in any profession, when you achieve certain goals that you set for yourself, it brings a smile to your face."

This year, Motown Records and its founder Berry Gordy are celebrating its 40th year in business. The festivities began with the Super Bowl half-time show that included performances by The Temptations, Queen Latifah, Marsha and the Vandellas, Smokey Robinson and Boyz II

Please see MOTOWN, E2



Dream comes true for Eliza

Working in a health-food store was never a dream of Southfield singer/songwriter Liz "Eliza" Thomas. But a chance meeting in her workplace may help her accomplish her dream to succeed as a musician.

Thomas, a 1984 graduate of Southfield High School, was working in the store and singing to herself when a customer told her he, too, writes songs. The patron was Barrett Strong, writer of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and "Papa Was a

Please see ELIZA, E2

U.S. violinist honeymoon in Amsterdam

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Alexander Kerr was hoping he could find a bar on SuperBowl Sunday where he could watch the game. He's in Amsterdam and hasn't been able to see a football game all season.

Not that he's complaining. Kerr, 27, is the co-concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, considered one of the world's premiere ensembles. The Orchestra comes to Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium Feb. 11 as part of the University Musical Society series.



Alexander Kerr

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam

What: Riccardo Chailly conducts the orchestra in Mahler's "Totentanz" (Funeral Service) and Bruckner's Symphony No. 1 in d minor
 Where: Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, on the main campus of the University of Michigan
 When: 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11
 Tickets: \$20, \$35, \$45 and \$55. Call (734) 764-2538 (toll free outside the 734 and 313 area codes, (800) 221-1229).

In 1996 Kerr, a native of Alexandria, Va., was a violinist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and about to become married when his life took a turn.

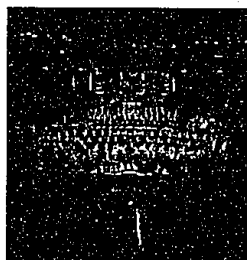
"I got this call from an orchestra that said it was the Royal Netherlands Opera Orchestra. I thought it was a joke. I thought it was my friend Richie, who plays clarinet for the Cincinnati; he's always playing jokes, and I thought he was doing something stupid again," Kerr said, in a telephone conversation from his home in Amsterdam.

Kerr auditioned and won his position as co-concertmaster. He splits performances with another violinist while also performing in chamber groups and teaching at the Utrecht School of the Arts.

The young, enthusiastic violinist has been juggling life in a strange country, performing with a major orchestra and adjusting to a new marriage.

"Everybody in the states asks, how does everybody like you," Kerr said. "Amsterdam is such a multicultural city and there are so many nationalities in the orchestra, it was easy to fit in. The person that had my position

Please see VIOLINIST, E3



Concertgebouw: The acoustically acclaimed Concertgebouw is home to the orchestra that bears its name in Amsterdam.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Symphony in White: Riders perform an intricate, equine ballet, exhibiting maneuvers through the highest level of dressage in The Wonderful World of Horses featuring the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions.



'The Wonderful World of Horses' showcases noble breed

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER

Saved from almost certain extinction by General George Patton and his men during World War II, the Lipizzaner Stallions are a rare and noble breed imported from Austria.

They will be galloping into The Palace of Auburn Hills for two shows on Sunday, Feb. 15.

"It's a very entertaining show," said Gary Lashinsky who has been producer of "The Wonderful World of Horses" starring the "World Famous Royal Lipizzaner Stallions" for over 29 years. This tour features 14 stallions.

"Millions of people around the world have seen the show," he said. "This is a very special horse. There are only 2,600

to 2,600 registered purebred Lipizzans." Besides entertaining audiences, Lashinsky said the show increases their understanding of this Austrian treasure. It visits metro Detroit every two to three years. They were last at The Palace in February, 1996.

This year's "A Symphony in White," features the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, a centuries-old training center in Austria, considered the "Harvard" of the equestrian world.

"We give you the opportunity to see something you can only see in Vienna," said Lashinsky.

"The Wonderful World of Horses" is an authentic presentation of the Spanish Riding School style, but is not affiliated with the school.

The show features all new music, choreography and routines with major emphasis on the historical background and foundation of the Lipizzaner breed, from its original breeding and use as a horse of war to a horse of nobility and aristocracy to a living form of equestrian art.

"Seeing these horses perform is like stepping back 425 years in time," said Lashinsky. "The costumes are traditional, very European and a throw back to the 16th or 17th century."

You'll see the spectacular leaps and maneuvers, once used by riders in saddle to protect and defend themselves on the battlefield, which are now preserved as

Please see HORSES, E2

The Wonderful World of Horses Starring the "World Famous Royal Lipizzaner Stallions"

When: 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15
 Where: The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills.
 Tickets: \$18.50 and \$14.50 reserved. Seniors 62 and over, and children 12 and under receive \$2 off all tickets. Call (248) 845-6666. Special Super-fan seating also available. Groups of 15 or more receive \$3 off reserved tickets. Call (248) 377-0100.