

MUSIC

Big band music swings under the stars

Del Kauffman used to listen to Frank Sinatra records while printing photographs in the dark room of his commercial photography studio in the New Center area. But it wasn't until he retired from a 40-year career of photographing Motown stars among others that he took a choir class at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Now, the 68-year-old Plymouth resident is pursuing his dream to sing lead vocals with a group.

Kauffman joins the Joe Kingaleys Band July 9 in the second concert of the Music Under the Stars series in Livonia. "Serenade in Blue," "Moonlight Cocktail," "Kalamazoo," and "Chattanooga Choo Choo" are a few of the Glenn Miller songs with which the 15-piece band and Kauffman will transport the audience back to the Big Band era.

"Our band leader has all the old Miller charts," said Kauffman. "If you close your eyes you'll swear it's Glenn Miller note for note."

Kauffman grew up listening to

Music Under the Stars

The Livonia Arts Commission and Livonia Parks & Recreation department presents a series of concerts 7:30-9 p.m. Thursdays, July 2 to Aug. 20 in Civic Center Park, Greenmead Historical Village and the Wilson Barn. For more information, call Livonia's community resources department at (734) 466-2540.

- Gemini—July 2, Civic Center Park
- Joe Kingaleys Band—July 9, Civic Center Park
- Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band—July 16, Greenmead
- Motor City Brass Band—July 23, Greenmead
- Banjoes of Michigan—July 30, Wilson Barn
- Ed Zelenak Band—Aug. 6, Wilson Barn
- Panchito and the Mexican Fiesta Dancers—Aug. 13, Civic Center Park
- Livonia Symphony Orchestra—Aug. 20, Civic Center Park

Miller's Chicago style jazz, popular in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. After retiring from photography, Kauffman sold all his cameras and equipment to sing with jazz bands. In 1989, he won an audition with the Metropolitan Jazz Band. Since then he's been singing regularly with the Joe Kingaleys Band, the Big Band

Express, and his own quartet. On July 7 when the Big Band Express performs in Capitol Park in Redford 7:30-9 p.m., Kauffman will be belting out the tunes.

"Whether it's singing or photography, I've always needed an outlet for my feelings," said

Kauffman. "It's been a dream come true."

On the marquee

Sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission, the Music Under the Stars series features something for the entire family from children's songs by Gemini to the traditional British brass band music of the Motor City Brass Band, and the festive sights and sounds of Panchito and the Mexican Fiesta Dancers.

"The intent is to bring a variety of music for all ages so it appeals to the young and the old," said Sue Montanbeau of the community resources department in Livonia City Hall. "The concerts are held at three different sites (Civic Center Park, Greenmead Historical Village, and Wilson Barn) so people can see the wonderful parks in Livonia."

Series finale

Members of the audience will be saying "I Could Have Danced All Night" when the Livonia Symphony Orchestra takes to the stage Aug. 20 with the music

of Broadway. Selections from "Phantom of the Opera," "My Fair Lady" and "The Secret Garden" will be heard along with John Williams' "Summon the Heroes," "American Patrol," F. W. Meacham; "Russian Sailor's Dance," and "Bugler's Holiday," "Serenade," and "Horse and Buggy" by Leroy Anderson.

Guest artist for the program is up and coming soprano Darlene McMullen. Schesniuk first heard the 22-year-old Livonia resident sing several months ago at Marygrove College, where McMullen is studying for a degree in music education. A 1993 graduate of Churchill High School, McMullen sang her first notes at Brightmoor Tabernacle in Southfield. She received a full scholarship to attend Marygrove College and since then has been on the Dean's List at the Detroit school. Over the last few years, McMullen has received a first place, two second place and an honorable mention award in competitions sponsored by the National Association of Voice Teachers. She is working as

musical director for the visual and performing arts camp at The Community House in Birmingham this summer helping elementary age children write their own musical. After finishing her degree in December, McMullen would like to direct a children's music program for a church.

"I would like to open doors for her on stage," said Volodymyr Schesniuk, Livonia Symphony Orchestra conductor. "She's very good."

McMullen is looking forward to singing selections from "My Fair Lady," "The Secret Garden" and "Phantom of the Opera" with the Livonia orchestra. She has never performed with an orchestra of this size before.

"I'm totally excited about performing with the Livonia symphony," said McMullen. "I've never sung with an orchestra on this level before even though there's an orchestra I sing with all the time at (Brightmoor Tabernacle) church."

If you have an interesting story involving the visual or performing arts, call (734) 953-2145.

Trinity House offers summer program

Trinity House Theatre is taking registrations for a Summer Apprenticeship Program in musical theater for children ages 10 and up to be held at the theater, 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia.

Sessions are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, July 27 to Aug. 14. The cost is \$300. Deadline for registration is June 30. For information, call (313) 636-5973.

Students experience several

elements of musical theater from performing to writing. Individuals are encouraged to participate in all aspects but can declare a major such as writing, directing, theater crafts, stage management, acting, voice, or dance. There will be group and one-on-one attention from instructor Trudy Mason, a performer with more than 30 years experience in theater, television and film in Canada and the U.S. Musical numbers and small scenes will

be chosen from Broadway musicals for a variety show to be presented Thursday, Aug. 13.

Also of interest, Schoolcraft College is offering a Summer Music School for late elementary and high school musicians to perform as soloists and with a live orchestra July 20-31 and Aug. 3-14. The cost is \$250 for each two-week term. For information, call the music department at (734) 462-4400, ext. 8218.

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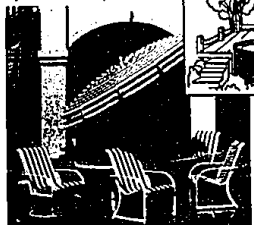
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