

Open forum provides chance for arts groups to share

BY LINDA CHOMEN AND KEELY WYGNONIK STAFF WRITERS

Audience participation is an important part of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers roundtable discussion. Everyone who had something to say was given the chance to voice their opinions and ask questions.

The roundtables are meant to be an interactive experience where people can learn from each other and exchange ideas. Contacts made at Tuesday's discussion could lead to collaboration later.

Panellists were encouraged to bring their members, and session schedules to let everyone know about upcoming concerts and fund-raising events. The roundtable was also promoted in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Merrill Shapers, a member of the Southfield Symphony Orchestra board, noticed a common thread among all the groups. "We want to bring culture to

the cities we represent," he said. "There are many community orchestras. We should be working together, sharing ideas and expertise. Board members ought to share ideas with other board members."

"Community orchestras are more than a step above high school," said Robert Bennett, president of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra board. "Community has the connotation of amateur. It's not our job to bring education to the schools, we're not equipped to do that. Most of the people in our group do other things during the day."

Carla Lamphore executive director of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra said she likes being called a community orchestra and is proud of it.

Don Pratt of the Plymouth Oratorio Society was interested in what Tim Hamann had to say about the challenges classical choral groups face. He wanted to

know how the Detroit Oratorio Society raises money, and echoed Hamann's comments about the difficulty these groups have in obtaining corporate support.

Vladimir "Wally" Murha, a member of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, said his group has been doing educational programs for 20 years, and that it has brought membership into the chorus. He thinks education is important and works in New Jersey; the chorus held a program "to foster the interest of children in the music." The result was that their next concert consisted of an audience of which 60 percent were under age 21.

Barbara Verdugo, a board member of the Oakland Youth Orchestra, is concerned because schools are cutting music from the curriculum "left and right." Even so, the orchestra's size "has doubled in the last year." Fund raising, as always, is difficult. When one major car company

request for funding, the group went back and said they'd offer school ships. That made a difference and the orchestra received their support. Verdugo is hoping that "Car Trek," a new work commissioned by the orchestra leads to renewed enthusiasm for the group. It will be performed May 6 in Varner Hall at Oakland University in Rochester. For more information, call (248) 652-2526.

In the panelists' closing remarks following the open forum, there was hope for the future of classical music.

The Southfield Symphony's next concert, "St. Pat's at St. Hugo's," featuring tenor Edward Kings, mezzo-soprano Dorothy Duensing, and violinist James Kujawski is 7:30 tonight at St. Hugo of the Hills Church, 22125 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 424-9022 or (248) 861-7408.

Lamphore is very optimistic as the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra approaches

its silver anniversary even though she realizes audience development is an uphill battle. Join the orchestra and pops conductor Charles Greenwell for a special concert of "Cowboy" music 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills. Guest violinist is the BBSO's Young Artists Competition winner Adrienne Jacobs, a senior at Troy High School. For tickets, call (248) 645-2276.

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra board president Don Soenen is "certainly optimistic" because the resources are in the community. The orchestra's priorities continue to be education and one-on-one. The PSO closes its 53rd season 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium. This is conductor Russell Reed's final concert before retiring from the orchestra. His sons David (violin) and Robert (cello) Reed are special guest soloists. Call (734) 461-2112 for tickets.

Tim Hamann, Detroit Oratorio Society board member, said he "hopes for the best and prepares for the worst. Overall there is optimism for the future." The Detroit Oratorio Society joins with the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings for a "Summer Solstice" concert of works by Arvo Part, Copland and Barber 8 p.m. Friday, June 4, at Kirk in the Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills. Call the DOS at (248) 650-2656 for tickets.

Livonia Symphony Orchestra conductor Volodymyr Schesiuk thanked the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers for offering the groups the opportunity to share ideas. His orchestra appears in a Good Friday concert with the St. Genevieve Interdenominational Festival 7:30 p.m. April 2 at St. Genevieve Church in Livonia. Call (734) 421-1111 or (734) 464-2741.

"I learned a lot from everybody," said Schesiuk. "Each is working a little differently."

Film from page C1

half-hour film, "Come Unto Me: The Faces of Tynes Guyton," lets Guyton tell his own story and it's a fascinating look at a controversial but imaginative and dedicated artist. The project was assailed by its neighbors, dismissed as junk by some casual passersby and "forever destroyed once and voluntarily closed just recently. Through it all Guyton's vision remained strong. The close-up views of the project and Guyton's own insightful commentary provide a lesson in art and how it's created.

In style "Come Unto Me" is among the more conventional offerings of the festival, but it gives some insight into how these film artists work as well.

On the other end is Austrian filmmaker Martin Arnold's eerie and hilarious "Alone, Life Wastes Andy Hardy." Don't tell Mickey Rooney, but Arnold has taken scenes from the Hardy

films and slowed, distorted and repeated the scenes in such a way as to create erotic scenes between Andy and his mom and shows Judy Garland as a hot temptress pining to take Andy from his his jealous mother, all in 16 minutes. Very weird and part of a trilogy. (Shown at the 7 p.m. Saturday, March 20, program.)

There is also a continuing fascination with film itself. Canadian Richard Raxton found a 1926 Mutt & Jeff cartoon that is the starting point for a brilliant deconstruction of animation. The seven-minute "The Geometry of Beware" includes story-board drawings, skipping film, silhouettes built around snippets of the original film (a roof-top chase scene) and set to a jazz score. It's animation improvisation, visual jazz. (Shown 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 16.)

Another experimental approach is the visually stun-

ning "Mind's Eye" by Australian Gregory Goddard. Here a fast moving camera moves into photograph after photograph, manipulating both speed and image so that fountains and buildings whirl and trees move. (Shown at the 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, show.)

Laura Margulies' "Hopa!" is a delightful explosion of color and music. Rich Brazilian rhythms are the inspiration for brightly colored oil animations of whirling, swirling dancers and musicians. (Shown at the 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, show.)

This barely suggests the range, quality and inventiveness of the 107 films that will be screened over the six-day festival. From 2 minute cartoons to a 72-minute documentary on the devastating effect of war through the eyes of women, "Regret to Inform," there is always something for everyone.

Roundtable from page C1

nity."

Repertoire as draw Building an identity and selecting repertoire go hand-in-hand in attracting an audience. Most of the groups draw crowds by choosing a mix of educational and crowd-pleasers plus a few new works.

The Livonia Symphony found success with the debut of a work by the late William Albright for a Good Friday concert held at St. Genevieve last year. The BBSO recently hosted the world premiere of a composition by Brian Belanger, dedicated to Tuskegee Airman.

"We have to have that gimmick to get people excited," said Lamphore.

Like the Southfield Symphony, one of the obstacles facing the Detroit Oratorio Society is building an identity when members live in many different communities. The Oratorio Society is a relatively young ensemble having formed only eight years ago.

"Is it repertoire or location? It's hit or miss," said Tim Hamann, Detroit Oratorio Society board member. "We've had success with our repertoire in certain locations. Kirk in the Hills and St. Hugo seem to attract a large audience."

■ 'A community orchestra cannot be a bad copy of the Detroit Symphony. Michigan Opera Theatre and Detroit Symphony are not all the culture in Detroit. Culture starts in childhood in your family. I was lucky everyone in my family were singers. I grew up with an appreciation for music.'

Volodymyr Schesiuk
Livonia Symphony Orchestra

I try different ways."

When Schesiuk first immigrated to this country from the former Soviet Union in 1991, he was dismayed by the lack of respect for the arts. As conductor-in-residence of the Bolshoi Theater, he did not have to raise money in order to be able to perform classical music. He still feels if the art form is to survive, the family is the place to start.

"A community orchestra cannot be a bad copy of the Detroit Symphony," said Schesiuk; "Michigan Opera Theatre and Detroit Symphony are not all the culture in Detroit. Culture starts in childhood in your family. I was lucky everyone in my family were singers. I grew up with an appreciation for music."

"The George Burns Theater is like a cemetery monument to the arts," said Schesiuk. "I don't have a recipe for raising money.

CLARIFICATION

In "Conversations," Sunday, March 7, columnist Frank Pruvencenzo reported that the Double Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra commissioned by the Southfield Symphony was not completed.

On the contrary, the work by composer Lawrence Singer was indeed finished, and a Nov. 16 taped performance of the Southfield Symphony premiering the work was broadcast on Southfield City Cable 15 in January.

Further, it was the Michigan Council for the Arts, not the Southfield Symphony, that provided a \$11,000 grant to Singer. The Observer & Eccentric regrets the error.

Steak House
32350 W. 8 Mile, Farmington Hills
Call 248-426-6454

HOURS: Monday - Saturday 10:30 AM - 2 PM, Sunday - Noon - 2 PM

Celebrate St. Pat's Day With Us!
Corned Beef & Cabbage \$8.95
Mulligan Stew \$6.95

GREEN BEER!
Irish Sing-A-Long 5:00 pm
Karaoke 8:00 pm
KARAOKE EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT

"If it ain't fun, we just don't do it!"

Michigan's Home and Garden
Michigan's Most Enchanting Antiques Show and Sale
March 19, 20 and 21

At the Southfield Pavilion
26000 Evergreen Road
Southfield, Michigan 48075
Fri 2-8 p.m., Sat 12-8 p.m., Sun 12-5 p.m.

An Extraordinary Show and Sale of Antiques and Home Decor for the Home, the Garden and Personal Accessories. An Antiques Showcase Sale. Cultural Feast for You! Your Family. Live Entertainment & More!

Early to Get In... \$1.00 Off
Dinner to Leave... \$1.00 Off
with this ad.

MS NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY
Michigan Chapter, Inc.

THE FLAGSTAR BANK MS-WALK

presented by:

Take a step in the right direction, register for the Walk near you!
Call 800/247-7382 for details or register online at www.nmssmi.org

There are 14 Walk sites across the state!

Saturday, April 18, 1999
Birmingham Seaholm H.S.
5K, 10K, or 20K

Easter Sundae
Join us for a fabulous Easter Brunch, Sunday, April 4th
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Adults \$16.95 Seniors \$14.95 Children \$7.95

\$98 Easter Room Package
includes overnight stay
Brunch for 2
Bottle of Champagne
Reservations Necessary
(734) 464-1300

Holiday Inn
LIVONIA
1-275-6-6 Mile

HGTV
Visit the HGTV VILLAGE
Meet HGTV On-Air Hosts
HGTV Home Theater
HGTV Grassroots

BUILDERS HOME & DETROIT FLOWER SHOW
COBO CENTER
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2pm-10pm
FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2pm-10pm
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 10am-10pm
SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 10am-6pm

SPECIAL GUEST STARS:
Norm Abram - Host of "Old House" and "The New Yankee Workshop" Thursday.
Beverly DeJulio - Host of HGTV's "Homewise" offering tips for the home on Saturday.
Steve Thomas - Host of "Tan House" will be appearing Friday.
Martin Yan - Host of "Tan Can Cook" with Chinese cooking, Saturday and Sunday.

AND HUNDREDS OF EXHIBITS... PLUS:
Gardens with over 25,000 tulips, daffodils and hyacinths
Green Thumb Theater with Joe Freeman and Gary Koller
Mad Dog and Merrill do outdoor grilling
WRTV's Glenn Hage, Rick Bloom and Mike Wendland
WTR's Joe Gagnon and Dean Krauskopf
Michigan Kitchen and Bath Show
Flower Creation Station
WNIC's "The Art of Romance"
Parade of Homes
House of Walls and Treasure Chest Contests
Uplust Bathroom Contest
And much, much more!

Detroit A Bloom Sponsors by

Admission: Adults \$6.50 Seniors \$4.50 Children 6-12 \$4.00 Children under 6 admitted FREE
Family tickets for two adults and accompanying children available at further \$4 - \$9.00

COBO CENTER MARCH 18-21
www.builders.org