Russian pianist visits Schoolcraft program

Donald Morelock thinks Amer-

Donald Morelock thinks Amorican piano teachers and students can learn a great deal about technique from the Russiana. Until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the droam of sexhanging ideas with Russian pianists was only a pipe dream for Morelock, chairman of the music department at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

'Soveral summers ago, Morelock began taking his students to Russian for a three-week piano workshop. That's when he mot Eleana Shishko, one of the leading pianists and a professor at the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music in Russia. Sho's performed and given master classes greently in Great Britain, Germany and Koroa. Morelock thought why not bring Shishko os Schoolcraft College as a visiting artist-in-residence so students and learn what the Russian method of ning playing has to ing artist-in-residente so such dents and plane teachers alike could learn what the Russian method of plane playing has to offer. Shishko arrived Saturday



Visiting artist: Russian pianist Eleana Shishko arrives at Schoolcraft Col-lege for a week of master classes, recitals and open

night to present a week of mas-ter classes, an all-day workshop for piano teachors, two open forums for piano students, and a

free solo recital of Mozart, Schubert, Prokofiev, and Chopin. Shishko is in the United States apecifically to vieit Schoolcraft College and Northwestern, University in Illinois. The schools jointly conduct three-week piane workshops every summer in Russia.

jointly conduct three-week piano workshops every summer in Russia.

"We're bringing someone who not only has so much knowledge of the Russian system but knows how to communicate that," said Morolock. "In Russia, it's a very systematic program for teaching children. They actually hunt for the talent throughout the country. They go into public schools and test them in first grada."

A piano teachers workshop will be held 9 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. Monday, March 29 in the Forum Recital Hall on campus. A question and answer session will follow the workshop. The cost is \$456.

low the workshop. The cost is \$45.
"Elena will lecture on piano teaching in Russia," said More-lock. "She'll demonstrate some of the techniques Russians are famous for, and the etudes they use to build students to high lev-els."

"Russian Festival," two Open Forums for all piano students in the community, will take place 6-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, March 30 and April 1 in the Forum Recital Hall, Shishko will perform then talk about the Rus-sian system of teaching young pianists.
"I've worked with her two

"I've worked with her two summers and she knows all about the great composers at the conservatory," said Morelock. Prokofiev went to school there. Rimsky-Korsakov was director of the conservatory and Shostakovich, she knew him." At noon Wednesday, March 31, Shishko performs Mozart's Sonata in F major, Ko 32, Schubert's Impromptu in G-flut major, Op. 90, Prokofiev's Sonata No. 5 in C major, Op. 88/135, and hellads, maurkas, waltzes, and nocturnes by Chopin. A reception to meet Shishko follows the program in the Forum Recital Hall.
For more information about.

For more information abou Shishko or activities during her stay at Schoolcraft, call the music department at (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5218.

Follow Yellow Brick Road to the Bloomfield Players

Bloomfield Players presents
"The Wizard Of Oz" at Andover
High School on Andover Road
(at the corner of Andover and
Long Lake Roads, west of Telegraph) in Bloomfield Hills, 2
p.m. Sunday, March 28. Tichets
are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children. Tickets available at the
door, or call (248) 433-0885.

BY ROY S. GOODMAN SPECIAL WRITER

This is not a completely objective review. I attend community theater performances expecting that my neighbors will entertain me, hoping that I will find something to appreciate.

Fortunately, the Bloomfield Players made this very easy with their current production of "The Wizard of Oz."

The Bloomfield Players have fielded at least one memorably off-sey singer in the past, but this production boasts a remarkably solid group of leads. This

off-key singer in the past, but this production boasts a remarkably solid group of leads. This musical rests aquarely on Dorothy's gingham-clad shoulders, and the Bloomfield Players were wise to entrust their show to ligh school senior Leslie Ann Handelman. From the first famous notes of "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" it was apparent that her clear, lovely voice stands up quite well.

The part doesn't call for much acting range — Dorothy's emotions range mostly from bewildered fear to hesitant angerbut Handelman made it believed.

Jewish Theological Seminary," is on exhibit through June 6 at the Detroit Institute of Arts.
On tour time in metro Detroit, the exhibit features 75 rare artifacts of Jewish culture, including Medieval maps of Jerusalem, antique marriage contracts and the Rothschild Mahzor.
Manuscripts and keubot from Iraq, France, China, Germany and Persia demonstrate the diversity of Jews worldwide.
The DIA is also offering a range of educational programs on Jewish culture, and workshops for tenchers.

able.

If Handelman carried the show, her fellow high school senior Richard Payton briefly stole it. He was a little stiff as a Iraq, France, China, Germany and Persia demonstrate the diversity of Jews worldwide.

The DIA is also offering a range of educational programs on Jowish culture, and workshops for teachers.

For information, call (313) 833-7962.

Rounding out the little group of adventurers were two Bloom-field Players stalwarts, Udi Kapen as the Tin Woodsman and Larry Miller in a role he was

or avenurers were two Blooms field Players stallwarts, Udi Kapen as the Tin Woodsman and Larry Miller in a role he was practically born to play, the Cowardly Lion (in fact he did play the role in their production of The Wir.") Both sing well. Dr. Kapen danced his part with amusing angular grace, and Dr. Miller showed once again why hea the group's resident comediate of the work of the wo

named...Toto.

The sets consisted mostly of very well painted backdrops.

The Bloomfield Players have The Bloomfield Players have always been about community and family. There were plenty of siblings up on the stage, and two of the teenage stars were acting alongside of their justifiably proud parents.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Send items for consideration in Art Beat to Frank Provenzano at forovenzano@oc. homecomm.net Or write to: The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009

LANDIS REIURNS TO AREA FOR SUNDAY CONCERT
Cabaret singer Kathleen Landis returns to the metro area for a performance 7 p.m. Sunday, March 28 at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 661 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills.
Local audionces will recall Landis from her days at the Caucus Club in downtown Detroit.
Since the mid 1990s, she's been a regular performer at Cafe Pierre in New York City.
A classically trained pinnist Landis gave her first solo recital

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in Detroit when she was 13 years old. She has performed nationally on college campuses and recital halls, including New York's Steinway Hall.

At the Piorre, Landis has developed a loyal following for hor renditions of Gershwin's music. Her cabaret act has also featured the music of Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer.

Landis has received critical acclaim in The New York Times and Stages, the national theatre magazine.

In her concert this evening, Landis is expected to perform jazz, swing and pop music.

For information call, (248) 476-5733.

Observer & Eccentric

DSG VOLUNTEER COUNCIL ANHOUNCES "MUSICAL FEATS XIT SEASON In its 12th season, the Detroit

In its 12th senson, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Volunteer Council is holding its fund-raising project, "Musical Feasts." The feasts consist of 18 fine dining and musical entertainment events.

The first event, "Sultan's Feast, "will be held Friday, April 16. A; multi-course French meal will preced a performance of DSO violinist Hai-Xin Wu and violist Carnillie Coade.

DSO violinist Hai-Ain we and violist Caroline Coade.

For information on the remaining 17 events that will be held through December, call (313) 576-5154.

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