

Financial gifts to DSO symbolize hope for future

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An influx of millions of dollars may not be the panacea for suddenly transforming the region's culture. There's little doubt, however, that last week's \$28-million in gifts to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra symbolize the prevailing optimism about the region's cultural future.

On Tuesday, the DSO announced financial gifts from corporate, foundation and individual donors as part of the \$125-million campaign to finance the expansion of Orchestra Hall and contribute to the orchestra's endowment.

To-date, the campaign has raised about \$90 million with the remaining \$35 million expected within the next three years.

"This is a clear sign that Detroit is on the rebound," said Emil Kang, interim president of the DSO. "Many civic supporters believe that the health of the cultural institutions is inseparable from

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Interim president, Detroit Symphony Orchestra

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Among the individual contributors are Sam and Joan Frankel, Bernard and Marilyn Pincus, Max and Marjorie Fisher, and Bob and Maggie Allouse, all of whom are from Bloomfield Hills. In total, 21 donors contributed \$1 million or more to the recent \$28 million gift to the DSO.

"This is a community of survivors and strong-willed people," said Kang, a Birmingham resident who joined the DSO last year after a stint with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

The three-phase Orchestra Place pro-

ject includes the building of administrative offices (completed in 1997), the construction of a high school for the performing arts (currently under construction), and renovation and expansion of Orchestra Hall, the acoustical gem of a venue that is home to the DSO. Improvements to the hall are expected to be finished in 2003.

The new 550-seat multi-purpose hall, an atrium lobby and the music education center named after the late Jacob Bernard Pincus, will be known collectively as part of the Max M. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts.

With the second venue, the DSO plans to offer a broader selection of jazz and pops programming.

Meanwhile, the 2,000-seat Orchestra Hall will receive new heating, ventilation and lighting systems along with elevators and an expanded lobby and backstage.

Currently, musicians file into five trailers that are attached to the back of the hall.

Renovations will commence this summer, said Kang. From June through August the DSO conducts its concert schedule at Meadow Brook Festival in Rochester Hills.

In the last decade, symphony orchestras in Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas and Seattle have either built or renovated their existing halls, said Kang.

Fund-raising doesn't end when the renovations and new construction are completed. The DSO must raise approximately \$10 million of its annual \$25



Philanthropists: The generous donations of Sam Frankel (left) and Max Fisher, among others, will help transform the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

million budget through grants and donations.

Expressions from page C1

Nykorak, a Warren resident. "He has a lot of movement in his flowers. They're not just straight up and down. Doing the scarves also made me more aware of color. Van Gogh's colors are more intense. Suddenly, I'm painting more intensely because of his influence."

Nykorak visited the exhibit, *Van Gogh: Face to Face*, to research the artist's palette and technique before sitting down to design the scarves.

"The portraits of peasants were dark then he went to Paris and he brightened up," said Nykorak. "You can see the change in the colors from the brooding to the bright. What's so sad is he'll never know how his art influenced other artists and

that his work is on exhibit everywhere."

Van Gogh: Face to Face continues through Sunday, June 4 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 6200 Woodward. For tickets, call (248) 433-8444 or the Van Gogh Hot Line at (313) 833-8499.

Joseph Rishel, senior curator of European painting and sculpture before 1900 at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, discusses Van Gogh's legacy and his influence on each successive generation of artists from Matisse and Picasso to Chuck Close and Andy Warhol 2 p.m. Sunday, May 14, in the Lecture Hall at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call Linda Ann Chomlin at (734) 953-2145.

MOT from page C1

regardless of where they live or their religion. Members of the high school ensemble come from Plymouth Canton, Plymouth Salem, Gabriel Richard in Ann Arbor; Morcy High School, Farmington Hills; Ladywood, Livonia; and the University of Detroit.

"It's all about community," said Lindquist. "We wouldn't have been able to do without Johnson Controls and the support of pastor John Sullivan who's a strong believer in music education."

"We're in the midst of monumental things at Our Lady of

'We started a few years ago working with schools and hope to instill a love of theater in children. It's an opportunity to get the students involved.'

Mark Vondrak

Michigan Opera Theatre, artist

Good Counsel. We're celebrating the 50th anniversary of the school, which was my motivation for inviting students back to perform. And early this fall we'll be dedicating the new church."

Vondrak understands the importance of community. That's why MOT originally founded the

programs that bring opera and musical theater to audiences wherever they live in the state. He enjoys performing community concerts for such organizations as Canton Project Arts and working with students as he did at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

"We started a few years ago

working with schools and hope to instill a love of theater in children. It's an opportunity to get the students involved," said Vondrak.

"It gives children a chance to work on stage with professionals and provides a valid theater experience. Our Community Programs give Michigan audiences a chance to see us in something other than the mainstage productions downtown (at the Detroit Opera House). We come to you. It's education and entertainment. We want to introduce Michigan audiences to opera and musical theater."

Artrageous from page C1

it a variety of media.

■ Penniman Gallery - Cathy Dyer, mandalas.

■ Gabriela's - Painter Dorian Sopher.

■ Creative Framing & Gallery - Artist Suzanne Lawrence.

■ Linden Art Glass - Joe Slezak, Ray Prokopp, Kris Rowe, George Pozan, and Michael Fill exhibit glass art.

■ Delta Diamond Setters & Jewelers - Designer Deborah Piotrowski-Lobb demonstrates wax carving, the first step in jewelry making.

■ Hands on Leather & Jewelry - Ken Wright demonstrates the techniques used to make drums that explore the culture and spiritual traditions of California Native American tribes.

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer-Newspress, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Farmington Hills musician Peter Soave is one of the performers in the 12th annual International Festival of World Music and Dance 8 p.m. Friday, May 19 in Smith Theater at Oakland Community College in

Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$16, \$20 reserved. Call (248) 622-3667.

"Flamenco Sin Fronteras (Flamenco without Frontiers)" features Cuban guitarist Jorge Luis Perez, dancer Lea LaGrecia, flutist Ginka Ortega, a jazz quartet, and Soave on bandoneon. Soave is currently performing in an off-Broadway musical, *Eurydice - Legend of Love*, at the Studio Theater on 46th Street. Soave created all of the music for the show and will be the sole musician. *Eurydice* continues to June 3. For tickets, call (400) 955-4827.

ART FAIR

Aspiring performing and visual art students in Wayne County will exhibit their talent at the 3rd Annual Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (Wayne RESA) Art Fair 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 20 at 6454 Varsity Road, Wayne. For directions, visit the Website at www.resa.net.

The fair showcases artwork, performances and demonstrations by students representing more than 60 schools in 21 school districts in Wayne County. More than 30 professional artists will also exhibit and sell their work which includes caricatures by William Tyus, Jr. Tyus, Jr. and his son Haseul have had their work published in a book about great African Americans.

A free concert by Alexander Zonjic & Friends begins at 3 p.m. Live entertainment will be provided by 17 local schools throughout the day.

INTERIM DIRECTOR APPOINTED

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra has appointed William Hulsker to serve as interim executive director while the search continues for a new director. Hulsker is a member of the orchestra as well as its personnel manager. He is a past president of the orchestra's board and recently retired from his position as music librarian at Wayne State University after 36 years.

Hulsker will join with other orchestra members to give a free concert during Plymouth's Artrageous 6 p.m. Friday, May 19 on Penniman. The orchestra also performs 7 p.m. Sunday, May 21 for St. John Neumann's 25th anniversary concert at the church, 44800 Warren, west of Sheldon, Canton. The concert is

free to the public.

PET PORTRAITS

Watercolor artist Kristine Dumm will display several of her cat portraits at the Mid-Michigan Cat Fanciers Show Saturday, May 20-21 at the Allen Park Civic Center.

Dumm, a Redford resident, specializes in commissioned watercolor portraits of pets painted from photographs. For more information, call Dumm at (313) 641-7425.

TEEN PRODUCTION

The teen drama club at the Plymouth Community Arts Council is presenting Mollere's timeless farce, *Tartuffe* 8 p.m. Friday, May 19 at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth.

Admission is by donation. All proceeds benefit the teen drama club. For more information, call (734) 416-4ART.

Initially controversial in 1864 when it was written by Mollere, the play attacks religious bigots in France.

DAY OF PERCUSSION

Plymouth-Canton High School is hosting the Michigan Percussive Arts Society's Day of Percussion beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 20.

Registration for the clinics is at 8:30 a.m. in the Plymouth-Salem High School Cafeteria. No percussion skill is necessary, only an interest in the percussive arts. All skill levels from elementary to college are encouraged.

A 7:30 p.m. concert will feature the Plymouth Percussion Ensemble directed by Gregg Rinehart, the Mott Middle College Steel Band under the direction of James Covick and the Trinity (Pennsylvania) High School Percussion Ensemble directed by Shawn Galvin.

The cost is \$10 for the entire day or \$7 (\$5 students) for the concert only.

ARTISTS WANTED

Canton Township is still looking for artists to exhibit in their 9th annual Fine Art and Fine Craft Show 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 24 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 25 in Heritage Park during Liberty Fest 2000.

Artists can display their work under "the big tents" or can bring their own tent. The show is

free to the public. Watercolor artist Kristine Dumm will display several of her cat portraits at the Mid-Michigan Cat Fanciers Show Saturday, May 20-21 at the Allen Park Civic Center.

ART CLASSES

Canton artist Kay Rowe will teach watercolor classes 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays June 6-27 at The Art Gallery/Studio, 29948 Ford Road, Garden City.

Portraiture classes in any medium with individualized instruction by Detroit artist Lin Baum will run June 1-22. A model is provided.

To register and for a suggested supply list, call (734) 261-0379 or (734) 513-4044.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council begins seven weeks of watercolor classes with Westland artist Sandra Weed May 17. The beginning level runs 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays, advanced 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays.

A Drop-In Studio continues 1:30-3 p.m. Mondays, and 7:15-8:45 p.m. Wednesdays.

For more information or to register, call (734) 416-4ART.

MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT

"Measure for Measure," the men's chorus group based in Ann Arbor, gives a Mother's Day concert 4 p.m. Sunday, May 14 in Hill Auditorium at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

"Measure for Measure" will be joined by the Ann Arbor Huron High School A Cappella Choir.

Tickets are \$12, \$8 students. Call (734) 489-9336.

AUDITIONS

Try out for *The Who's Tommy*, a rock opera to be presented by Jack-In-The-Box Productions, 6:45 p.m. (registration), 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, May 23-24 auditions, the Livonia Civic Center Library, off Five Mile Road, between Merriam and Farmington Roads. Prepare 16 bars of a rock/pop song in your range and wear comfortable clothes for moving. Call (734) 797-JACK for information or visit <http://jackintheboxprod.tripod.com>

BOOK HAPPENINGS

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Be a part of the exciting popular group of budding writers at Borders Books & Music in Farmington Hills, 30995 Orchard Lake Road. This continuing monthly series of events is designed to help develop writing skills and creativity. All ages are welcome. This month's session is

set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25. Call (248) 737-0110.

BOOK SIGNINGS

Farmington Observer staff reporter and Livonia resident Timothy Smith will be signing copies of his book, *Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies - Little Thumbs Up!* at the follow-

ing bookstores:

■ 7 p.m. Thursday, May 18, Borders, 3527 Washenow, Ann Arbor, (734) 677-6948;

■ 7 p.m. Friday, May 19, Waldenbooks, 30200 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 261-7811.

Smith can be reached at (248) 477-5450.

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