

THE WEEKEND



Steve Nardella plays the blues 7 p.m. at Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. The show is open to all ages and free. Call (248) 644-4800.

SATURDAY



Model and toy train enthusiasts are welcome 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the Detroit Historical Museum's fifth annual Glancy Train Show. Admission \$4.50 adults, \$2.25 senior citizens and students 12 to 18, and free for children under 12. Call (313) 833-1805.

SUNDAY



Steven Soderbergh's latest film, *Traffic*, is playing in metro area theaters. Catherine Zeta-Jones stars as Helen Ayala, the unknowing and pampered wife of a drug baron.



Riding the wind: DSO bassoonists Paul Ganson (left), Marcus Schoon, Bob Williams, and Vicki King blow into Orchestra Hall for special performances of Michael Daugherty's "Hell's Angels."

BY LINDA ANN CHROMIN
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Michael Daugherty composes music about what he knows best and what audiences relate to — popular American culture.

Daugherty grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, surrounded by music — popular American music. The Motown sound, jazz and rock can all be heard in his latest work *MotorCity Triptych*. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, under conductor Neeme Jarvi, presents the world premiere of this musical crulo through Detroit Jan. 4-6 at Orchestra Hall, and kicks off a mini-Daugherty festival. His *Hell's Angels* rova up the season's programming Jan. 11-13.

MotorCity Triptych

What: The Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents a world premiere by Michael Daugherty in celebration of Detroit's 300th birthday; also Mahler's *Symphony No. 4* (11/11/11)
When: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 4-5, 10:45 a.m. Friday, Jan. 5, and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6
Where: Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit
Tickets: \$15-\$52, a limited number of box seats available at \$45-\$71. Call (313) 878-5111

The music of Michael Daugherty continues 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 11-12, and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, as the DSO performs his *Hell's Angels* for Season Quiret and Orchestra. Guest artist on the program is Joshua Bell performing a violin concerto by Sibelius

Daugherty, the DSO's composer-in-residence, spent hours riding up and down the streets and boulevards of Detroit, listening to legendary Motown artists, and attending a 4-hour service with Rosa Parks at St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church before composing *MotorCity Triptych* in three movements: *Motown Mondays*, *Pedal-to-the-Metal*, and *Rosa Parks Boulevard*. To write *Motown Mondays* he imagined "an exotic world of harmonies and rhythms that might have been performed by Motown artists on a Monday night at The Roostertail Club." Each and every note celebrates the city's 300th birthday.

"I really try to write music that reflects the environment I'm in," said Daugherty, who began teaching composition at the University of Michigan School of Music in 1991. "When you hear *Motown Mondays* you hear the grooves. When you hear *Pedal-to-the-Metal*, you hear Middle Eastern music. When you hear *Rosa Parks Boulevard*, you hear spirituals."

The trombone section in the final movement — *Rosa Parks Boulevard* — echoes the voices of generations of preachers in Detroit and across the country. Lyrical sections alternate with the turbulent bus ride.

"The way I compose music for the concert stage is different from other composers," said Daugherty. "I like to write pieces to reflect the

MOTORCITY TRIPTYCH

DSO revs up season with world premiere



Composer in residence: The Detroit Symphony Orchestra features the music of Michael Daugherty — the world premiere of "MotorCity Triptych" and "Hell's Angels" featuring the orchestra's bassoon section.

environment where the piece will be played. And like an actor researching his part for a play, I spent a lot of time driving around the city and talking to people in stores and cafes."

One of Daugherty's stops was the Prestige Club, a popular Middle Eastern night club, located at Telegraph and Michigan Avenue. It's part of the musical journey Daugherty takes as he speeds down Michigan Avenue. Along the way he captures the sights and sounds — the Middle Eastern restaurants and cafes, the billboards, neon signs, diners, and gas stations in fragmented orchestrations, melodies and counterpoints.

"*Pedal-to-the-Metal* has heavy Middle East influence in string and percussion," said Daugherty, who composes nearly every day in his Ann Arbor studio. He spent 10 months writing *MotorCity Triptych* which Jarvi and the DSO will take

Please see DSO, B2

Anti-Freeze Blues Festival heats up

BY STEPHANIE ANGELIN CASOLA
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Frigid temperatures in Ferndale can mean only one thing — it's time to turn up the heat and kick back with some blues.

The Anti-Freeze Blues Festival, an annual endeavor of Ferndale's Magic Bag, means more than just two sizzling nights of blues. It's also the biggest fund-raiser of the year for the Detroit Blues Society, an organization dedicated to keeping the blues tradition alive in the metro area.

Headlining this year's festival are Louisiana-born bluesman Lonnie Brooks and the "father of rock 'n' roll piano" himself Johnnie Johnson. Accompanying these legends are a host of local talents that range in style from the Detroit's original diva, Thornetta Davis, to the jump blues of The Millionaires, from The Alligators to R.J.'s Blues Revue, which features the vintage voiceover of Stanley Mitchell, Joe Weaver and Kenny Martin.

Coming up with a lineup like this takes careful consideration. "We start to talk about what

headliners we'd like to have, who has CDs coming out," said Jeremy Haberman, owner of the Magic Bag and Royal Oak resident. "We try to make it fair for the local blues musicians."

It's the perfect spot to come in out of the cold. Howe's Bayou will provide Cajun fare to accompany the music. Originally called the Deep Freeze Blues Festival, it comes around every year at the onset of the Michigan winter. Two years ago, a heavy snowstorm forced organizers to cancel the second night of the event. But bad weather never stops Haberman, R.J. Spangler, chairman of the Detroit Blues Society, and guitarist Jeff Grand, who collaborate to bring together the best in local and national blues each year. "At this time of year, this type of festival can definitely be successful," said Haber-

Anti-Freeze Blues Festival
When: 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Jan. 5-6
Where: Magic Bag, 2290 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
Tickets: \$20 each night, call (248) 544-3030

Please see ANTI-FREEZE, B2



Johnnie Johnson, the "father of rock 'n' roll piano"

DANCE

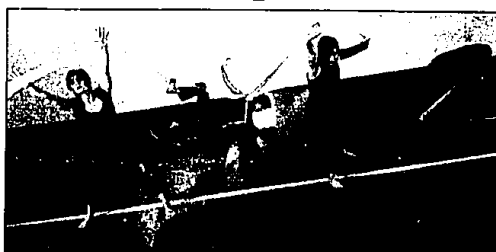
Peter Sparling dancers stop 'Traffic' with new work

BY LINDA ANN CHROMIN
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Peter Sparling marvels at the speed dancers move across the stage in *Traffic*. The new work dissects the colors red, yellow and green as dancers travel through a series of urban and rural landscapes.

This is the first time members of the Peter Sparling Dance Company have choreographed a work and Tim Smola, a Garden City dancer, couldn't be more excited. He plotted out the cautious segment of the triptych titled

Traffic
What: Peter Sparling Dance Company performs the world premiere of work choreographed by three of its members
When: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 11-13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14
Where: Performance Network, Ann Arbor
Tickets: \$17 on Thursday and Sunday, \$20 Friday-Saturday
Call (734) 953-0881



Caution: Tim Smola choreographed this dance titled "Yellow." It is one of three sections in "Traffic," a new work by the Peter Sparling Dance Company.

its dynamic moves and steps, races into the Performance Network Theatre in Ann Arbor Jan. 11-14 as part of the Fireside Festival of New Work. The world premiere of *Traffic* is one of three works on the program which includes *Possio's Dances* and *Orfeo Suite*, both

choreographed by Sparling. *Orfeo Suite* offers two sections from a full-length production of Gluck's opera *Orfeo* and *Euridice*.

Commissioning company dancers to create *Traffic* gave Sparling the opportunity to choreograph the opera he

began working on while taking a sabbatical from teaching dance at the University of Michigan. *Orfeo* and *Euridice* will be performed May 19 in a workshop which includes students from the university's School of Music. The work will receive its world premiere as part of the University Musical Society series in November at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

"The idea for *Traffic* was to challenge the dancers dramatically but also aesthetically," said Sparling who spent his teen years in Plymouth. "They really move. They hardly have time to catch their breath."

Written in three sections, the work explores contemporary social patterns. "I commissioned them to freely associate on traffic and the three colors of the traffic light," said Sparling who was a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company for seven years before beginning his own company in New York in the early 1980s. "I wanted to celebrate the invention of the traffic light which was first implemented on the streets of Detroit in 1928. I thought it was an appropriate way to celebrate Detroit's 300th birthday because of the

Please see TRAFFIC, B2

40% OFF

Art and consumerism collide as in H. N. Sanyal's work. Grocery No. 1, found at Cranbrook Art Museum's latest exhibition. Fabular Media and Contemporary Art, on display through Sunday, Jan. 14. Time slot: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (734) 953-0881 for details.