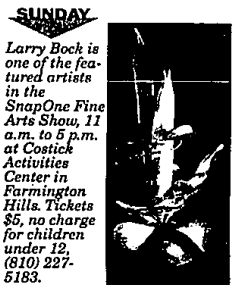




FRIDAY
Finnish composer Leif Segerstam leads the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in an 8 p.m. concert featuring Scandinavian works at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. Tickets \$15-\$52, (313) 576-5111.



SATURDAY
Sandy Zometzky and Randy Jost of Plymouth are featured in "The Price of Love," an Easter musical, 7 p.m. at Northville Christian Assembly. No charge, call (248) 348-9030.



SUNDAY
Larry Book is one of the featured artists in the SnapOne Fine Arts Show, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Tickets \$5, no charge for children under 12, (810) 227-5183.



HOT TICKET
The Royal Hawaiian Circus rolls into the Palace of Auburn Hills, Thursday-Sunday, April 5-8. Tickets \$13, \$9 and \$5, call (248) 645-6666.

SACRED MUSIC



Solemn sounds: The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus perform sacred music from the 10th to 16th century.

LOVE OF SONG, COUNTRY BINDS UKRAINIAN MUSICIANS

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.hometown.com

Wladimir and Antoli Murha, Arnold Birko and John Kytasty sit tall and proud as they speak of their Ukrainian heritage and the chorus Stalin nearly exterminated under Soviet rule.

Since the Middle Ages, choral music and the lute-like bandura have served as a kind of glue holding Ukrainian culture together. From the time the bandura became popular with Cossacks and wandering minstrels in the 17th through 19th centuries to the inception of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus in 1918, the two art forms created a brotherhood among musicians. In the case of the chorus, the love of song and country made it possible to survive persecution by the Soviets and later the Nazis.

Kytasty knows the stories well. Accused of inspiring nationalism in Ukrainians, many conductors, chorus members and blind bandurist-minstrels were executed in 1935. The rest were forced into the State Bandurist Chorus of the Ukrainian SSR. Kytasty's father, Peter, fled to the United States in 1949 with several members of the original Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, re-established in Detroit with several of the musicians hoping to find work in the automotive industry. Peter, who recently retired from performing, was an instrumentalist with the

chorus and choir director of St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Southfield. John's uncle, Hryhory Kytasty, conducted the chorus for many years.

On Sunday, April 8, Kytasty, the Murhas, Birko and the rest of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus will gather from across the United States and Canada for the love of sacred music. Members from Livonia to Rochester, Cleveland, Toronto, New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia will sing chants and play songs from the 10th to 16th century at St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Livonia. The chorus, which toured Ukraine in 1991 and 1994, has been invited to represent the United States in Ukraine in August in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the country's independence.

"Our family fled Kiev in 1949 and made their way through Germany with the chorus," said John Kytasty, a Livonia resident who joined the chorus five years ago. "My father was 14 at the time in Kiev, and there was tremendous turmoil. Many

Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus

What: Concert of sacred music including traditional a cappella Kyivan Chant accompanied by bandura

Where: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, west of Inkster Road, Livonia. Free will offering.
Call (734) 422-1470

members ended up in concentration camps in Germany where they gave concerts. Growing up, I took the music for granted but now realize the symbolism. Ukrainian chant derives from the Greeks. Sacred music hasn't been heard by anyone for hundreds of years due to oppression. The only way the music survived is with the chorus. Culturally, the church was very important as far as influencing the people and the music."

Musical roots

Conductor Oleh Malay thinks that's because the roots of the music go back to the church. In addition to a cappella, choral accompanied by bandura, and adapted liturgical pieces, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus will perform 10th century ballads from the monastery of the Caves in Kiev and 16th century compositions by Dyletsky, whose music is rarely sung on this continent.

"The concert features snapshots of the historical development of Ukrainian sacred music," said Malay, a Cleveland attorney who sang with the chorus before becoming conductor five years ago. "Male choral singing had its beginning in monasteries when Ukraine accepted Christianity in 888 A.D. There was a need to have singing for church. The singers were all male because they were the monks and priests. We went back to those roots."

Please see SACRED, B2

Actor/director lands on Planet Ant

BY KEELY WYGNOK
STAFF WRITER
kwynok@oe.hometown.com

After one curtain call, York R. Griffith was hooked on theater.

"I acted in plays at Farmington High School," said Griffith who is directing "The Adding Machine," opening tonight at Planet Ant Theatre in Hamtramck. "I was the understudy for Harold Hill in 'Music Man.' It was my father's birthday, and they let me do the part. When I stepped out for the curtain, that's when I knew what I wanted to do."

After graduating from Northern Michigan University in 1998, Griffith landed at Planet Ant in Hamtramck. It seemed like fate -- his mother used to show him ads promoting the space. He attended his first show in 1997, and liked what he saw.

After acting in, and stage managing a few shows, Griffith was named executive director.

"It challenges us as far as the pictures we can make on stage," he said scanning the intimate 65-seat theater from a wooden chair on stage. "I feel most responsible for the money part, making sure we break even at least. It's extremely important when you're making art, something that should be part of the structure."

Please see ANT, B2

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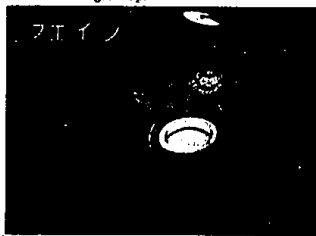
MGM

ART

Illustrators bring whimsy, introspection to CPOP Gallery

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.hometown.com

No one had to ask Gary Taxali what he wanted to be when he grew up.



Monkey business: Gary Taxali, the Toronto-based artist behind "Toy Monkey," is one of two illustrators featured at CPOP Gallery.

The Toronto-based illustrator made his love of art obvious by age 4. Looking back at his kindergarten report card, he found an insightful comment from a teacher that read: "Gary's favorite thing is when I read a story in class, he likes to go off to the side and draw pictures."

Some things never change. Taxali will exhibit his work, titled *Sweet Shop Toys, Candies and Books*, 6 p.m. Saturday, April 7, at Detroit's CPOP Gallery along with a show by illustrator Tim Hussey of New York City.

Two-toned

Once a set designer for MTV, Hussey, works for a variety of major national magazines. He is also an instructor at The School of Visual Arts in New York City and a painter. His exhibition, *Shed*, includes paintings and drawings, he described in a press statement, as seeming "to be influenced by an uncomfortable desire to embrace the fragmented by formative memories of my life up until now."

Stark contrasts are expected between the work presented by these two artists. "They're different but they both have similar backgrounds as illus-

Please see CPOP, B2