

# Talented doctors prescribe music for what ails you

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There is a group of physicians from Detroit-area hospitals whose practice is more appropriately called a rehearsal.

Handelman Filmworks presents an Afternoon of Piano, Violin and Song, featuring many medical professionals, on Saturday, May 19 in the newly renovated Friends Auditorium of the Detroit Public Library on Woodward in Detroit.

Though making a living with medical instruments, they found they also had something in common with the instruments they consider hobbies. This is their first concert together.

Free and co-sponsored by Hammill Music — Steinway & Sons in Bloomfield Hills, the concert is intended to give the library's renovation, and supporters, Friends of the Detroit

Public Library, more exposure.

The state of the art auditorium can seat 350. A reception with food and hors d'oeuvres starts at 4 p.m. in the renovated Strohm Hall followed by the concert at 5.

The concert is the idea of Dr. Bonnie Lynn Sherr, in family practice at St. John Hospital Macomb Center in Warren. St. John is also represented on the program by Drs. Kevin O'Brien and Kenneth Tucker.

If the performers aren't related as physicians, chances are they're just related.

Dr. Sherr's sister, Melodie Solway and Solway's husband, Dr. Alan Solway, an ophthalmologist at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, are also on the program.

Dr. O'Brien will be accompanied by son Matthew Brennan O'Brien and Patrick Brennan O'Brien on the program.

"It's kind of funny how it all evolved," Dr. Sherr said. "With great joy I discovered a number

What: Friends of the Detroit Public Library present an Afternoon of Piano, Violin and Song concert

When: Saturday, May 19, 4 p.m. start with a pre-concert reception in Strohm Hall, featuring food, refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. Concert follows at 5 p.m. sharp in the Friends Auditorium

Where: Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward across from Detroit Institute of Arts in Detroit's cultural center

Program: Philip Handelman, president of the Friends of the Detroit Public Library, will introduce David G. Holdeman, MD; Joseph W. Kaufman, MD; Kevin O'Brien, MD; Patrick Brennan O'Brien; Matthew Brennan O'Brien; Daniel J. Ryan, MD; Tor Shwayder, MD; Alan Solway, MD; Melodie Solway; Bonnie Lynn Sherr, MD; Mary Thomas, Kenneth Tucker, MD; and John Zeppia, MD

Admission: Free, including reception

RSVP: (313) 833-4048

of my fellow physicians and some of their family members had a tremendous talent and love for music. For years we would discuss the pieces we were studying, concerts we had been to and recordings that we especially liked.

"We wanted to do something nice for the city and the library. It's a beautiful library and this gets its name out there. Music is

such a beautiful thing to share."

While most on the program are modestly accomplished musicians, Dr. Sherr said a veteran duet of Drs. Tor Shwayder and Joseph Kaufman, both dermatologists, is a bonus.

Dr. Shwayder, on staff at Henry Ford Hospital, has played for 13 years with the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony

Orchestra. He graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in England and studied with famous pianist Mischa Mischaikov.

Kaufman, in practice in Novi and Warren, is a guest soloist with the Redford Symphony and Novi Concert Band. He studied piano with Mary Mass in Detroit for more than 10 years and at Interlochen Arts Camp for three summers.

"They're the best of the whole lot," Dr. Sherr said.

In January, Drs. Shwayder and Kaufman teamed with another doctor of dermatology, Thomas Hornyak, to put on a concert at Madonna University that raised \$9,000 for charity.

"Some held bake sales, some ran marathons, we did a concert," said Dr. Shwayder, of Farmington Hills. "With music there is a creative side of us that doesn't have a chance to come out in the medical field."

Dr. Sherr said her parents were her inspiration for music as a child. Her high school teacher at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, the late Elmer Mundt, enhanced her talents. After years of being idle musically, she resumed under the tutelage of Helen Korwin three years ago.

"We had an organ in the house and we got a piano when I got a little older," Sherr said. "My high school teacher was very inspiring but in college, I was pre-med, just studied away."

The group's rehearsals are elaborate and include dinner and hors d'oeuvres, which helps camaraderie.

"The real beautiful thing is when we get together for practice, it really keeps us polished and we grow as musicians together," Dr. Sherr said.

No matter what their practice, someone always benefits from these physicians.

## Expressions from page C1

a two-week run with the Shrine Circus at the State Fair Grounds.

"Over the years, I've worked in a factory, garage and garment warehouse. I've been home in L.A. slept on some of the finest roofs there, then took Greyhound bus tours across the country. I paid my dues because I

believe in myself." And obviously the circus does too.

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call arts reporter Linda Ann Chom in at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchom@e.ohiohomecomm.net

## Singer from page C1

upper range, and contemporary work," said Brady. "We wanted to give listeners a full range."

Music has always been a part of her life. She started taking piano lessons in fourth grade, and guitar two years ago. Her older sister plays flute.

"My dad wrote a lot of songs, and we sing together in church," she said. "I never gave up music," said Brady who is worship leader at Northville Christian Assembly, and recently produced and directed an Easter musical at the church.

President of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Walker received a first division rating in the Michi-

gan School Vocal Music Association for District Solo and Ensemble, and a first division rating for the State Solo Ensemble.

She's looking at Western Michigan University, and would like to do some opera and musical theater.

Brady established the Rebekah Walker Musical Scholarship Foundation to help his daughter.

"I'm hoping she'll be successful and will be able to help other struggling students fulfill the same dream," he said. "We're selling the CD for \$12, after we cover the costs, the proceeds will go into the fund."

## Living by faith

Like her father, Rebekah lives by faith. "I think all my talents aren't mine. God gave them to me," she said. "When I sing, it's for God, it's giving back to God what he's already given to me."

She knows the road ahead won't be easy, but she's not afraid.

"I look at where I want to be, and remember that it starts out small," she said.

"It's a competitive business," her father adds. He knows, having made the club circuit with his band Ebony Rose in the 1970s. "You have to learn to

accept defeat. I believe in her, and believe she's been given a gift that should be shared with the world and want to do everything to help her."

Copies of the CD will be available for purchase at the May 20 BBSO benefit. You can also purchase them at the Northville Christian Assembly gift shop inside the church at 41355 Six Mile Road, west of I-275, call (248) 348-9030, or (734) 422-8792. Walker will be performing with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra at its Music Under the Stars concert on Thursday, Aug. 16.

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