Celtic from page B1

saxophone and guitar. The festival concludes with a 9 p.m. jam session featuring Gavin, his father Mick (a fiddler), and 40 musicians on stage.

Having fun

"It's really fun," said Gavin, a 16-year-old student at Universi-ty of Detroit High School. "It's like a big field and it's open. You can walk around and chat and eat.

'I'm especially looking forward

ent.
"I'm especially looking forward to hearing Mary Jane Lamond from Cape Breton, Novo Scotia who sings in Scottish Gaelic. She's gotten very popular. Her music is kind of juzzy and blends every kind of singing. I'm also looking forward to hearing Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster. I played with her in a jam seasion in Milwaukee." Gavin frequently travels around the country and to Iraliand for concerts and competitions. At the end of August, he'll play in five categories of the All-Iraland Competition in Listowein County Kerry, Iraland. This is his second time performing in the qill-Celtic day at the Frog Jsland Music Festival. Joining him on stage to celebrate their Celtic roots are step-dancers Simmy Ward of Novi, Christine Rothermel, Livonia, Bridgette Relatiche Plumouth and Nick Rothermel, Livonia, Bridgette Belvitch, Plymouth, and Nick Gareiss, Mt. Pleasant. "I'm excited," said Rothermel,

a Livonia resident who's competed in World and All-Iroland competitions. "It's going to be fun. The first time I saw dancers was at a St. Patrick's Day colebration and decided that's what I wanted to do."

Nine years later Rothermol is still studying at the O'Hare School of Irish Dance in Westland along with her sistors Tauri, 12 and Kelsey, 7. Their schedule keeps mother Polly busy chauffeuring her daughters around town. At Christmas time Rothermel performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. She also danced with the Celtic group, The Chieftains in March 2000 at the Power Center for the Performing Arts in Ann Arbor.

Making friends, building

Making friends, building character
"I don't mind all the running around," said Polly Rothermel.
They've made friends all over the world. In Ireland, we learned about the custom - 'take down the door' where they take down half door for solo step dancers. We've seen the old churches and houses where their grandparents inved.
"Dancing builds character. They love it and perform its cause they want to. I don't tell them to practice." Polly pays for the lessons,

Polly pays for the lessons.

shoes and dance attire just like Jimmy Ward's mother Nancy who considers herself lucky because male dancers don't require the colorful costumes, which are made in Ireland and cost between \$800 and \$1,000\$.

"His older sister Kelly danced and he had a talent so we encouraged him to take lessons, said Nancy Ward." Ho's with kids of Irish descent. My hushand's grandparents came from Ireland. There's a strong tie to the Irish community."

Like Rothermel, Ward takes several dance classes a week and exchanges shoes with other students to keep costs down. They can add up fast when traveling to Ireland for world competitions. Ward vied for titles in 1999 and 2000 and would have again this year but the competition was canceled due to foot and mouth disease.

It takes a lot of stretching to achieve the high kicks he performed during St. Patrick's Day festivities at the Hellenie Cultural Center in Westland. Ward is returning for a second year to the all-Celtic day at Freg Island Park. He began studying at Olfare School of Irish Dance five years ago.

"It was outside and a lot of

O'Hare School of Irish Dance live years ago.

"It was outside and a lot of fun," said Jimmy Wurd, a 15-year-old student at Catholic Cen-tral High School in Redford where he plays football and runs



Steppin' out: Jimmy Ward is one of the step dancers who will perform on Celtic Roots Day.

track.
"I dance because it's fun and entertaining. It's something you can do all year long. Eventually I'd like to try out for River-

dance."
In the meantime, Ward will compete in the nationals coming up in July in Toronto.

Frog from page B1

and from the heart."

Penn said that middle-class and upper-class players generally miss the point.
"It can be imitated but it can't truly be duplicated from where it's from," Penn said.

He plans to embellish his usual basic blues outfit with a barn section

He plans to embellish his usual basic blues outlik with a horn section and female blues artist tell people that Frog lainnt, as well as a great, big neighborhood party with some of the best music around.

Jim Dulzo music around.

Festival organizer/founder

Bland, where lainny fair former. In the past, with B.B. King, with B.B. King, his greatest influence. At Frog Island bell be sharing the bill with Bobby "Blue" what can you say about

"What can you say about Bobby 'Blue' Bland," Penn said. "He's one of the emperors of the business - one of the greats. I'd like to be able to meet him, but just being on the show is enough."

Broadening the appeal

Broadening the appeal

Jim Dulzo, festival organizer and founder, said that when Frog Island got its start in 1981 as a joint effort between the Depot Town neighborhood organization and Eastern Michigan University radio station WEMU it was strictly a Saturday afternoon jazz event.

Over the years, the festival grew in length, and with the addition of new sponsoring partners WDET and the Ark in Ann Arbor, the festival with sagney in length, 11% also unique among area festivals, Dulzo said.

"We've broadened the appeal of the festival with something that for just more commercial music, which is something that Frog Island has always avoided, said Dulzo, who also is a jazz journalist and has his sown music show on WDET.

With the festival's growth, Dulzo said, there has not been a commensurate loss in the feel of

Frog Island Music Festival Schedule E Friday, June 22 – Gates

open 5 p.m.
South Coast Celebration
5:30 p.m. – The Wild Magno-

5:30 p.m. – The Wild Magnellas
7 p.m. – Lisa Hatey & The
Zydekats
6:30 p.m. – Terrance Simien
10:30 p.m. – Marcie Bail
Saturday, June 23 – Gates
open 11:30 a.m.
Gournet Jazz Picni
noon – Blackman/Arnold
World Jazz Band
1:15 p.m. – Johnny Rodriguez
Flery Letin Jazz Band
2:45 p.m. – The Mr. B Blue
Turbulence Trio
4:15 p.m. – Geri Allen and
Friends Meet Keren Briggs
Big Blues Bass
Big Blues Bass
Big Blues Bass
Big Blues Bass

Big Blues Bash 6 p.m. – The Brothers Groove 7:30 p.m. – Robert Penn Blues

9 p.m. - Larry McCray 10:45 p.m. - Bobby Blue

Bland
Sunday, June 24 - Gates
open 12:30 p.m.
Celite Roots
1. p.m. - The Saline Fiddlers
2:30 p.m. - Detroit Groupal Ceol
5:30 p.m. - Mary Jane Lemond
7:15 p.m. - Natalle MacMaster

9 p.m. - Celtic Roots Jam

the festival as it was first

"I like to tell people that Frog Island is a great, big neighbor-hood party with some of the best music around," Dulzo said.

Dulzo said festival-goers can also expect to find good food, a cash bar and "other kids for their kids to play with" at Frog Island.

"It's really different from a lot of festivals that you go to," Dulzo said. "It's in a bowl-shaped city park and it's in a very sheltered place that makes you feel far away from everything."

Michael Murphy is a Livonia resident and writes about music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Guild showcases Plymouth playwright

An Evening at the Neapolitan, a series of three of one act-plays written by Lance A. Abke of Plymouth, opens Friday at the Players Guild of Dearborn playhouse and continues weekends through June 30.

An Evening at the Neapolitan takes a modernistic view of situations that have been around for as long as most of us have been

alive.

For example, The Shallow Deep is based on marriage.
S.o.S., the second in the series, focuses on waiting in line. Moral Congress forces one to consider the difference between right and

Marriage

Marriage

The Shallow Deep, written by
Abke and co-written by Beverly
Pickering, is a series of monologues between Bryce (Kirk
Haas) and Marcie (Rebecca Deicomyn), a married couple whe
think they have an ideal marriage. On the surface verything
appears to be wonderful – but
there are deep, wide cracks in
their marriage. Directed by Joff
Ostrowski, Tho Shallow Deep is
a dark, biting commentary on
the state of marriage in the time
of SUV's and six-figure mort-

gages.
S.o.S is an existentialist farce.
Needing to change the address on his license, Christian (Abke) has dragged Julian (Al Vietzke) to the local Secretary of State office. As they wait for their number to be called they begin to explore the depths of life from two very different perspectives. Eventually, they meet Jane (Rebecca Delcomyn), who has no concept of time, and everything ormal disappears as all three soon discover that time itself has started moving backward.

started moving backward.

Directed by Tony Lawry of
Garden City, S.o.S is a hilarious

vignette of one afternoon (or is it really an eternity?) spent at the Secretary of State office.

Right and wrong

Moral Congress is a comedy that was first introduced at the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Red-

ford.
The play, directed by Abke, involves two roommates, Eddie Westphal (James M. Ohl of Walled Lake) and Dean Man-ning (Chris Newman of Rochester Hills) with conflicting

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