

### ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Arts organizations give youngsters cultural passport

**D**arlene Dreyer loves her job as executive director of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. In addition to promoting one of the finest community orchestras in the area, she has the opportunity to influence the next generation by instituting programs such as Passport to the Arts & Culture.

Dreyer came up with the idea after attending an American Symphony Orchestra League conference in Boston last year. It was there she learned of a similar program that bands together cultural institutions within a 60-mile radius of Utica, N.Y.

Dreyer thought, why not here? Before long she involved Jennifer Tobin and Stella Greene of the Plymouth Arts Council and Beth Stewart of the Plymouth Historical Museum. They applied for and received a \$14,400 cultural project grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs then began planning the program.

#### Passport to the arts

Students receive passports, which are then stamped after each trip to a concert, museum or arts classroom. After earning so many stamps in their passports, they receive prizes. Dreyer believes Passport to the Arts & Culture encourages students to learn more about the arts by attending events such as the two upcoming concert



**Amphibian art:** Katherine Lou and Carley Zimmerman designed this mascot for the Passport to the Arts & Culture program.

which kick off the program. The 15-member Canton Chamber Orchestra of the Plymouth Symphony performs Friday, Aug. 3, in Kellogg Park in Plymouth, and Sunday, Aug. 5, at Heritage Park in Canton. Both are free.

Passports will not be available until the first day of class for the 17,000 children in the Plymouth Canton school district, but students can sign up for credit at the concerts.

"It's not just a concert but a dramatic reading and there will be people in historic dress," said Dreyer. "It's more of an event. The symphony will have its own activity center for kids to make their own instruments or top hats. And the arts council will have a display of drawings by students from Webster Elementary."

The program is to build an awareness of cultural activities in our community among young people and our community that has a ripple effect on their parents."

Beth Stewart believes the program will grow as time goes on. Canton Project Arts is already involved as a result of the chamber orchestra playing in Heritage Park. Both Canton Township and Project Arts provided monetary support for the concert.

"It's a joint effort," said Dick Dionne, president of Canton Project Arts. "We're forging a relationship between the CPA and other groups with these events."

"Next year we hope to open it up to choruses and other groups," added

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Practice makes perfect: Ben Purcell watches as Rodney Whitaker shows how he would play the same part with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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**R**odney Whitaker doesn't mince words as he stands in front of the Detroit Symphony Civic Jazz Orchestra laying down a stream of advice. It took him years of practice to earn his position as bass player for the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra in New York City — and it all started here in Detroit.

Working with young jazz students at the DSO's Summer Institute is coming full circle for Whitaker, who played with the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra from 1989 to 1997. Now, he directs the DSO's Civic Jazz Strings. He doesn't mean to make rehearsing any more difficult than it already is, but believes musicians who intend to play professionally need to develop "a good work ethic." The Institute's two-weeks of intense musical training helps prepare students for the stage.

#### Do your homework

"Don't come to rehearsal learning the part," Whitaker tells students attending the institute at Oakland University in Rochester. "You have to have the kind of integrity to practice your



Long summer day: Brian Coates of Southfield rehearses with the Civic Jazz Orchestra at the DSO Summer Institute.



Team work: Delfeayo Marsalis tells students at the DSO Summer Institute to "line up the tempo."

parts before rehearsal. I'm not trying to come down hard on you. I'm pretty tame compared to my conductor at Interlochen.

"Even when it's just a rehearsal, play like it's a performance."

Section by section Whitaker works with students in the two-hour morning jazz session. He encourages the saxophonists in the front row to "take time to listen to the trumpet, bass and drums, the rhythm section." This is valuable advice for high school students preparing to become professionals like Whitaker.

"Don't tap your feet, listen to the drums as you time, listen to how it's constructed," said Whitaker, who is also a music professor at Michigan State University.

"Try to get rid of the harsh tone like you're playing in a marching band. That won't work for jazz. Play more with a singing quality instead of marching band."

Ben Purcell was trying to do just that. As a senior at Cranbrook High School in Bloomfield Hills, Purcell began playing bass three years ago. This was his first week rehearsing with the Civic Jazz Orchestra.

#### Grooving

"I learned a lot of stuff like how to groove with the instruments, listening to the instruments as an extension of the rhythm section," said Purcell of

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Shining moment: Kris Johnson takes the lead in Duke Ellington's "Harlem Airshaft."

## DSO trains youth for musical future

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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It's been a roller coaster of a week for Daisy Newman, director of education for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. The amount of students attending the Summer Institute at Oakland University has nearly doubled since last year.

The increase means Newman must locate and assign more rooms for young musicians to rehearse and study. The two week intensive music training camp attracts classical and jazz students ranging in age from 12 to 25.

"We had 65 the first summer, 80 students last year, 150 this year. We've expanded beyond the university's expectations," said Newman, who's working with Summer Institute Director Charles Burke of Canton to provide an Interlochen-style experience for music students in the area.

"We're very excited. The program is important because it gives the DSO the opportunity to change the lives of young people through

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### BOOKS

## Children's book illustrations not just for kids

BY LANA MINI  
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**W**hen it comes to art, there is truly something for everyone, of all ages, to enjoy.

Soft beauty in a home can be created with paintings by Monet. Bursts of bold color can enhance a hallway with the addition of a Van Gogh print. And, for something light-hearted and fun, to truly bring out the youth in all of us, are artists like Dr. Seuss or Jane Dyer which are suitable for any room.

The Elizabeth Stone Gallery at 538 N. Woodward in Birmingham specializes in children's book illustrations from the classics to the up-and-coming.

This summer kids can relieve themselves from the heat at the gallery where they can read children's books, look through the stuffed animal collection and enjoy the artwork.

The gallery exhibits original artwork as well as limited edition

prints from illustrators throughout the world.

The most popular book by far is *Thidwick and the kind-hearted mouse*.

And *Guess how much I love you?* by Sam McBratney and illustrated by Anita Jeram.

The most popular characters portrayed in artwork for sale?

"Parents are just as enthused as the children are when they come to the gallery," Stone said. "Grandparents go toward *Peanuts* characters, parents to *Curious George*, women toward fairies and men also love *Peanuts*."

Kids favorites

As for kids, well they love it all — especially mice and pigs.

Original artwork and reproductions from every character imaginable, ranging from \$12 to more than \$1500 are available.

At the gallery, parents want to own the artwork as much as the kids do. Stone said one Southern woman owns all the artwork from

an entire Dr. Seuss book which she hung along the hallway of her grand colonial home.

"The artwork evokes memories, they are handsomely drawn with vivid colors and sweet or fun images," Stone said. "I'm always busy here, locating prints requested by customers, creating birthday and shower gift packages. There's always something new."

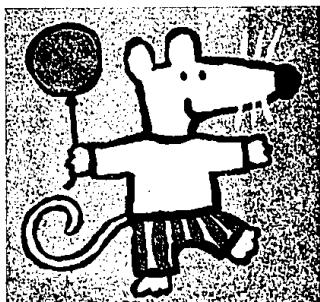
The gallery boasts its uniqueness as one of the few in the country that cater to this specific niche. Stone only knows of one other, in LA, that is so dedicated to the world of children's book art.

And, the artists who create the books become Stone's friends. Artist Jane Dyer, whose stunning, colorful work is shown throughout the gallery, is one of Stone's favorite creators and a best-selling artist.

#### Upcoming events

On Saturday August 11, at 10:30 a.m., the gallery will host a one

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Always mice: Lucy Cousins loves to draw mice. Here is Maisy, a popular children's book character. Lithographs, originals and prints of Maisy are on exhibit and available for purchase at the Elizabeth Stone Gallery.