

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Local country-noir musicians *Blanche* perform at midnight, following an opening reception of art, and music by Chapel Hill's *Trail or Bride*. This "Evening of Uncanny Music & Sullen Art" begins 7 p.m. at Detroit Contemporary Gallery, 6141 Rosa Parks Blvd. in Detroit. Call (313) 898-4ART.

SATURDAY



"Pooh Visits Storyland" returns to the Marquis Theatre stage, 2:30 p.m., 135 E. Main St., downtown Northville. Admission \$7.50, call (248) 949-8110.

SUNDAY



Ecole de Musique d'Improvisation Jazz plays a variety of big band tunes 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Rotary Park on Six Mile Road at Hubbard, Livonia. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the park (includes chicken dinner, call (734) 522-2643).



Fireworks will light up the sky at Meadow Brook Music Festival when the Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents "Tchaikovsky Spectacular," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11, and a pops concert featuring Marvin Hamlisch, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12 to wrap up its summer season. Tickets \$10-\$56, call (313) 676-5111 or (248) 645-6666.



On tour: Conductor Keith Lockhart leads the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra.

Join the Boston Pops for a

Fiesta!

BY KEELY KALESKI-WYGONIK
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Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart is running behind schedule, and late for our interview.

But when we finally connect I am reminded of why he is so popular with audiences—he has this ability to make you feel like you're old friends—even if you've just met.

Lockhart will be at the Fox Theatre Thursday, Aug. 16, with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, to present *Fiesta*, a program of Latin American music.

"We've been making a habit of it," he said about visiting metro Detroit. "We're going to become the Michigan Pops Orchestra."

Before stopping in Detroit, the tour, which also includes stops in Illinois, Massachusetts and Virginia, will perform at the Kresge Auditorium at Interlochen Center for the Arts. "We'll also be in Midland for the first time," said Lockhart.

Program notes

The program will feature selections from the orchestra's Grammy Award-nominated recording *The Latin Album*, which includes music by Alberto Ginastera, Astor

Piazzolla, and Aaron Copland.

Mariachi Cobre, which has performed at EPCOT's Mexico Pavilion at Walt Disney World, will also perform.

"Latin music is universally appealing, which is why it keeps coming back on the pop chart," said Lockhart. "It has a rhythmic vitality that gets people tapping their toes. There's a heartfelt passion to it."

Concertgoers will be treated to a variety of classic Latin American musical styles by Brazilian, Argentinean, Mexican and American composers.

Beginning with Malambo from the 1941 ballet *Estancia* by Ginastera, an Argentine classical composer, the Aug. 16 program continues with Maleguena and Anducia by Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona, and closes with *Dansa Brasileira*, an upbeat evocation of traditional Brazilian dance, and Aaron Copland's *El Salón Mexicano*, an affectionate tribute to the people of Mexico.

Mariachi band

When Mariachi Cobre played at preview performances, Lockhart said audiences wouldn't let them off the stage.

"They have an amazing level of virtuosity," he said. "These guys can really play and sing. They're all male, some play violins, guitars of various shapes and sizes,

and trumpet, and sing wonderfully."

The music is fun to play, exciting and challenging. Lockhart wanted Mariachi Cobre to perform solo, but they insisted on playing with the orchestra.

Founded in 1971 by Randy Carrillo, the group has played a key role in the preservation of Mexico's most representative musical folk form. The group made its Boston Pops debut in May 2000, and appears on *The Latin Album*.

The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra consists of freelance musicians from Boston, organized by the management of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. They perform in Symphony Hall from mid-

CD: The Aug. 16 concert at the Fox Theatre will feature music from "The Latin Album." It was recently nominated for a Grammy Award.



June through mid-July, play free outdoor concerts at the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade during July, Holiday Pops concerts and a New Year's Eve gala.

Even though it's been a busy summer, Lockhart enjoys touring with the orchestra.

"The Boston Pops has a national constituency because of its recordings and TV appearances," he said. "It's important for people to see who makes the music, and gives us a chance to connect with our audience. We do appreciate their support."

COMEDY

Second City-Detroit features 'Mayor-Go-Round' in new revue



BY KEELY KALESKI-WYGONIK
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Creating a fun, interesting environment for the cast and audience is what The Second City-Detroit does best. Its 21st revue—*Mayor-Go-Round*—opening Thursday, Aug. 16, takes audiences for a laugh-filled ride.

There's a musical opener and closer, and lots of gags in between.

"We become apes," said Kirk Hanley of Farmington Hills. "Our director Ron West is into physical stuff, not just talk, talk, talk, you get tired at the end of the show."

For Hanley, who describes himself as a talky actor who relies more on his wit, the show is a stretch, a nice one.

"I think I've grown as an actor. You tend to go toward your strengths in the first show, and then work on things you're not as good at."

This is Hanley's third mainstage revue. He began his Second City-Detroit career in the touring company. "The opener is fun. It's a musical number about the mayor's race. The closer is a love song to the city of Detroit that's kind of fun."

In between, audiences will be treated to political and social commentary that gets to the heart of matters with humorous undertones.

There's a hospital scene where she's in for a mammogram and he's trying to comfort her. Lawyers, look out: There's a sketch about how they take advantage of folks in their time of need.

Diversity training workshops are also fodder for humor—"We are in constant conflict because of our genes, and bureaucracies, which tend to take on lives of their own."

For Hanley, the challenge is to always make it fresh for the audience, every night.

He's also been teaching a writing class at Second City-Detroit for the past six months.

"My writing skills have improved

dramatically. At Second City you're writing while you're acting and improvising. I think I wanted to be a writer before I wanted to be an actor."

In addition to Hanley, the cast fea-

tures Antoine McKay, Maribeth Monroe, Cheri Johnson, Jeff Fritz, Kiff Vandenberg, and musical director John Edwartowski.

The Second City-Detroit will celebrate its ninth anniversary this fall. "Come on down. The whole area is being revitalized."



Kirk Hanley of Farmington Hills

Second City Detroit

What: Presents its 21st revue, *Mayor-Go-Round*.
When: Opens 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, shows 8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, additional shows 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, through mid-October.
Tickets: \$15 Thursday and Sunday, \$20 Friday-Saturday, call the box office (313) 965-2222, or Ticketmaster (248) 645-6666.

2 For Tuesdays—Guest improvisation groups
8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 21—The Stuff, Second City Touring Company member P.J. Jackson performs *Batman*, a superhero-based improvisation
8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28—Planet Ant Home team featuring Second City Touring Company members Shawn Haddon and P.J. Jackson and touring company director, Nancy Hayden, wow audiences with their popular long form improvisation *Jammin' Wednesdays*

8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15, 22 and 29—The Best of Second City, followed by Improv Jammers, an open improv jam that showcases the cast's improvisational skills and allows the audience to participate in popular improvisation games such as 1,001 and Switch.
Show by students from the Second City Training Center, 7 p.m. prior to 2 for Tuesdays and Jammin' Wednesdays.
Tickets: \$10 or \$5 for students with I.D.