

ARTS & LEISURE

C1

Noteworthy inside

Sunday, August 26, 2001

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Artist uses rainbow of colors in paintings

Al Weber's painting of a polar bear is the first thing visitors to his Canton home notice. The rainbow of color, created by 12 layers of watercolor, shimmers to life in the light.

It's easy to see why Weber has won so many awards for his work over the years. Painted after a photograph taken at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, the polar bear hung in a show in the House of Representatives building in Washington, D.C., for several months before returning to the prominent place on Weber's wall.

Weber maintains a life of some 5,000 slides he uses as reference for his paintings. Many were taken during the days he worked as a consultant for Ford Motor Co. Europe, Tokyo, Malaysia, Venezuela, Brazil - Weber paints all the places he's seen.

"Drawing is the basis for art," Weber said modestly. Weber developed his talent for perspective and composition as a student at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., as visitors to his one-man show at the Plymouth Community Arts Council will see. The retrospective, which features a technical drawing of parts, and a crystal crust on a scratchboard, goes back to his college days in the early 1950s. Weber will talk about the work during a gallery walk Friday, Sept. 7, at the arts council.

Among the works not to be missed are *Cool, Cool Water*. A black-faced lamb watches as its mother drinks from a stream in this heart-touching scene. One of Weber's newest works, the painting was created after a trip to England. Weber and his wife, Edith, a native of England, enjoy visiting Derbyshire and the lake district often. In fact, one of the newer pieces captures the serenity of Edith's parents home in Derbyshire.

Other works show Weber's imagination at work. Using techniques such as squirting paint from a bottle or throwing acrylic-soaked string onto paper, Weber creates compositions from the abstract lines left from the process. "I try to make something out of it. I like experimenting with different techniques. This work I used marbled

What: Plymouth Community Arts Council presents an exhibit of watercolor paintings by Canton artist Al Weber. When: Aug. 27 to Sept. 21. Opening reception 5-7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27. Gallery walk and talk 7-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7.

Where: Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth. For viewing hours and information, call (734) 416-4278.

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Retrospective: These are two of the paintings in Al Weber's one-man show at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.



LEARNING FROM



All that jazz: Trumpeters Terran Terrell (left), Tom Gougla, Dan Rumbell and Travis Cook perform with the Farmington Harrison Jazz Ensemble noon Monday, Sept. 3 on the Absopure Waterfront Stage.

Jazz festival programs nurture young musicians

Gettin' down: Farmington Harrison Jazz member Mark Snirgy is the featured guitar soloist in Steve Spiegel's "Ber Ceuse for Mallory."

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Jack Pierson is going to be a busy guy this Labor Day weekend. As a member of the education committee for the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival, he's responsible for coordinating the performances of more than two dozen middle, high school and college bands from around the state.

But he's not complaining even though it means he'll barely have time to

catch his breath between leading the Schoolcraft College Jazz Band 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31 on the Absopure Waterfront Stage and giving a clinic on improvisation 2:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 3 on the Jam Academy stage. A jam session follows. In between Pierson serves as one of the International Association of Jazz Educators judges assessing the school bands. At the end of the festival IAJE will award scholarships to a high school and college student.

But before that the 70-year-old jazz educator will direct the 18-piece Edsel Ford High School Jazz Band noon Sunday, Sept. 2 on the Ford Motor Company Amphitheater Stage. "It's exciting to see it all fall into place," said Pierson, a Plymouth resident. Pierson also coordinates the IAJE Band which plays the newest jazz charts for directors and students. "It's a wonderful weekend downtown, so many things going on

musically."

Pierson doesn't mind all the hours he puts in even though he'll practically be living downtown during the four-day festival in Hart Plaza. Unlike today's young musicians, Pierson had plenty of opportunity to experience jazz while growing up in Cleveland. Every Saturday he would go to the Palace to listen to Glenn Miller and other big bands. Pierson began playing piano in 10th grade after buying his first Dixie Gillespie record.

"In the old days when I was a kid I could go and set in and play with professional musicians in the clubs," said Pierson, now in his third year as director of the 20-piece Schoolcraft College Jazz Band. The group played the Michigan Jazz Festival at the college in July. "Today, kids are trained academically but they don't have the

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Practice makes perfect: Bob Kroll leads the Rochester West Middle School Jazz Band on the Kowalski Jefferson Avenue Jam Academy Stage. Pictured here at a recent rehearsal are Mike Trathen (left), Josh Shyu (clarinet), Gabe Butche, Jeremy Pavlek, and Carl Batke.



Swing time: Jack Pierson and the Schoolcraft College Jazz Band perform 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31 at the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival.

Vocal group shines at jazz festival

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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To say Ginny Lundquist is excited about singing in the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival is like saying the event draws a modest-sized crowd. Far from the truth, the festival is expected to lure three-quarters of a million jazz lovers to Hart Plaza over Labor Day weekend. And Prime will be performing in front of all of them 5:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 3 on the Kowalski Jefferson Avenue Jam Academy Stage.

Of course, it's not like Prime hasn't appeared in front of large crowds before. In 1999, they performed at the granddaddy of all jazz festivals - Montreux in Switzerland. At the time, the group was on a European tour which included a stop at the North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland.

"The Detroit jazz scene is great," said Lundquist, an Orchard Lake resident and one of the founding members of the Farmington Community Chorus.



For a song: Prime vocal jazz performs Monday, Sept. 3 at the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival.

"It's one of the best things a jazz group can be in. Detroit is one of the homes of jazz."

But singing is only part of the fun for Lundquist who will be joined on stage by Prime director Steve McGraves of Plymouth; lead soprano Cat Hadrian; Hazel Park; alto Gwen Jacques; Novi; Carl Rinne (baritone/trumpet); Ann Arbor; Dan Rafferty (bass); Waterford; Eileen Standley (keyboards); Plymouth; Takashi Iio (acoustic bass); Sterling Heights; Sheila Brown (drums); Canton; and Lundquist's husband Eric (sax/clarinet). In addition to performing songs ranging from Fats Waller's *Honeydew* to the title cut from their CD, *In a Mellow Tone*, Lundquist is looking forward to seeing the New York Voices 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 2 on the Absopure Waterfront Stage, and Barbara Ware and the Matt Michaels Trio 6:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31 on the Motorcity Casino Pyramid Stage.

"New York Voices are four singers I really admire," said Lundquist who along with McGraves and the rest of Prime recently gave a workshop on jazz singing at Alma College. "They're led by Darron Mender. He's really a talent. He's a tenor with a high range and does really wonderful scat solos."

FINE ARTS

Art on the Green attracts crowds year after year

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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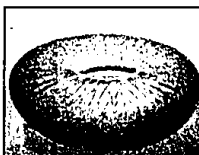
Deb Eliassen can't wait to display her glass work in this year's Art on the Green. The Farmington Hills artist probably won't be able to top the exhilaration she felt last year after winning best of show but she's willing to try.

For the last year, Eliassen's been creating new designs that could possibly win the highest of honors. Among them are the glowing glass vessels from her *Anemone* series. Eliassen sandblasts the exterior to make them look like they're lit from within.

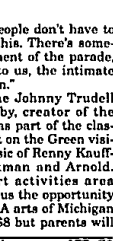
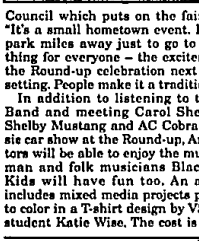
"I'm excited," said Eliassen, a Farmington Hills resident. "And besides I really enjoyed Art on the Green last year. It's local. It's one day and it's a very nice tranquil setting on the grass in a park-like area."

Atmosphere is what draws fair goers to Art on the Green year after year. That and the fact it features more than 76 artists showing a variety of media.

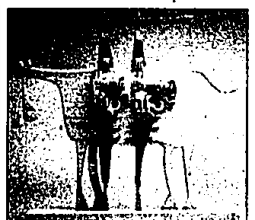
"It's small enough that it's so accessible," said Peggy Kerr, president of the Franklin Arts



Glowing anemone: Deb Eliassen sandblasted the exterior of this glass vessel to make it look as if it's lit from within.



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Whimsical works: George Landino is well known for his whimsical portrayals of a variety of subjects. Pictured here are works from his "Fisherman" and "Cowboys and Indians" series. The fisherman is a tribute to his father who's asleep in the boat while all of his finned friends swim below.