

## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

## Choral lovers unite in song

Choral music and the holidays just seem to go together. No matter your religion, it's a time for celebrating and rejoicing with family and friends.

Wayne State University music professor Malcolm Johns knew this 35 years ago when he decided to bring the community together with a concert after the riots of 1967. Johns won't be conducting this year's program. He died April 21, but his legacy lives on. At noon on Tuesday, Nov. 20, the community will gather for the "Salute Concert to Downtown Detroit" featuring the Wayne State University Symphonic Chorus & Orchestra at Old St. Mary's Church in Greektown.

"After the riots Mac (as he was fondly known) was trying to use music as a healing and communication throughout the community," said Dennis Tini, chairman of the WSU music department. A Farmington Hills resident, Tini will conduct this year's concert. "It evolved into many types of music from our diverse community — Polish, Belgian."

"It's a celebration, traditionally the beginning of the Thanksgiving and the holiday season and meant to welcome the holiday season. It's a wonderful, Victorian Gothic church, a beautiful church. People should come down. A free will offering will go toward."

Malcolm Johns choral library at Wayne State for students and faculty to use his literature. Tini is expecting nearly 2,000 celebrators to pack the historic church especially since this year's concert honors Johns who was an internationally known conductor, church musician and organist. Johns taught at Wayne State University 44 years and served 14 years as emeritus professor giving clinics and conducting.

The program includes the last movement of Bach's *B minor Mass* and *Dona Nobis Pacem* (Grant Us Peace) in honor of the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks as well as Southfield pianist Matt Michaels and vocalist Gordon Finlay performing a love song written by Johns for his wife, Marian, in 1949. Choral selections by Brahms, Mozart, William Bolcom and African-American composer Moses Hogan will also be performed. Soloists singing with the orchestra and chorus are Frances Brockington, Dorothy Dunning, Finley and Norah Duncan IV.

"We're encouraging people to come early. We're expecting people from all over the state," said Tini, who's been a part of the festivities since 1978. "The goal is to bring everybody together as one through music. The audience gets to sing together."

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Coming together: Dennis Tini conducts the Wayne State University Symphonic Chorus & Orchestra in a salute to downtown Detroit concert.

# AN ARTIST'S



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH LANGLEY

Dinnerware dream: John Glick trims a plate for a commissioned 15-place setting.

## Celebrated potter cherishes human connection

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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John Glick steadily moves the treadle of the potter's wheel back and forth with his foot as he's done for the last 37 years at Plum Tree Pottery in Farmington Hills. His excitement over winning the Governor's Michigan Artist Award from Art-Serve Michigan appears muted but that's simply the internationally known ceramist's style.

Glick calmly and philosophically responds to life events and his craft. In his acceptance speech, Glick revealed a long-held idealism that an artist's journey is about discovery, creation, hope, and possibility. Glick treasures the fact he's touched so many people with his work — that through the simple act of forming clay he brings happiness to others.

Looking around the showroom at Glick's functional and sculptural ceramics, it's easy to see the beauty in owning hand-made wares. Built on the site of a working farm from the 1850s, the space features platters, ten pots, bowls, tiles, cake plates,



Places: The sculpture, *Cloud Study*, recalls John Glick's trip to China.

platters, mugs, stoneware jugs — objects to soothe the bumps in life. Glick believes it's more important now than ever to add a little joy to people's days. "I was in New York the week of the tragedy giving a seminar and was traumatized and scared afterward even when I came home," said Glick who received the award Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Detroit Institute of Arts. "People are emotionally shocked, spiritually shocked. They're buying a cup because it's about hope, the possible, the real. The human connecting part is the most enduring. A part of myself goes into all of my work."

"I'm very excited about the award but I've had enough rewards over the years. I have a diverse community of supporters who come here anytime

for a personal special gift for someone or themselves. It's a wonderful connection with people loving what you do."

Glick tells stories about people he's affected over the years. One of his favorites is 22 years old. Glick was giving a tour of his studio to a group of Brownies and before they left he gave them all something to remember their day by. One of the girls' mother, who'd never heard of the pottery, came in and became a regular customer because of her daughters' stories.

"The girls grew up loving handmade work because of those experiences," said Glick. "Now they have children. They come here, three generations. It's a family tradition. Their biggest treat is giving each other my work. What touches me is the fact it knits their family together."

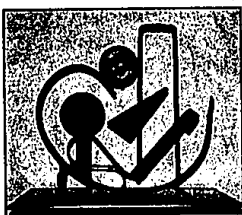
Just like his customers, Glick is moved by owning clay works. His home is filled with dozens of pieces by other artists. He says it puts him in touch with "all these different voices every day."

Glick never dreamed as a student that like them he could make a living creating utilitarian objects. He'd read about folk potters in Korea and Japan passing on their skills from one generation to the next. Nearly 40 years later he's running a successful business and eager to tell you: a artist that it is possible to make a living doing what he does. As a student at Wayne State University in the late 1950s, he was inspired to become a potter by teachers, students and family.

"It was my parents believing in me, people believing in me," said Glick. "My parents never said this

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## EXHIBIT



Introspective: Sharon Bida created the sculpture, *Inside of Us*, after breaking both legs during a trip to Mexico.

## Show spotlights 'Artists Among Us'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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Sharon Bida broke both legs on a trip to Mexico in February, but that didn't stop her from creating a sculpture for the *Artists Among Us/Poets Among Us* exhibit on view in the second floor gallery at Madonna University.

The Plymouth artist believes in sharing her feelings and the fourth annual Wayne County Council for Arts, History & Humanities show gave her the opportunity to do so while undergoing months of rehabilitation so she could walk again.

The welded steel abstract titled *Inside of Us* uses lyrical line and a circle symbolic of the universal requirement to seek sustenance from outside ourselves. No man is an island especially rning true for Bida and she wanted to communi-

cate that. "It really is special to me," said Bida, who also has work at

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