

Musicale benefit to feature jazz harpist

The Farmington Musicals will host a Jazz Cabaret Concert to benefit its annual scholarship competition.

The event, held at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 11 at the Costick Center, 28600 West Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington, will feature harpist Christa Grix. She will perform a variety of music accompanied by drums and string bass.

'I draw upon all kinds of music, from classical to jazz, and even some funk and blues, to make my harp sing.'

Christa Grix
Harpist



Christa Grix

Grix is at the vanguard of the concert harp, expanding the creative dimensions of this appealing instrument. "I draw upon all kinds of music," she says, "...from classical to jazz, and even some funk and blues, to make my harp sing."

A native of the Detroit area, Christa studied with Velma Froude, at Michigan State University, and Lucie Lawrence, at Boston University. Although she

benefited from excellent, rigorous training in classical music, she always was drawn to the

musical freedom that is the trademark of fine jazz playing. Grix was a featured performer

and lecturer on jazz improvisation on the harp at the Seventh World Harp Congress held in Prague, Czech Republic in July of 1999. In the summer of 2000, she gave a recital with her jazz trio at the national conference of the American Harp Society, to rave reviews.

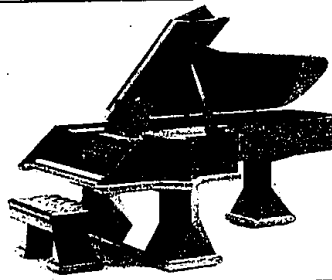
She is married to graphic designer Mike Mullen. They reside in Northville, where they enjoy gardening, baseball, cooking, and playing with their young son and miniature harpist, Brendan James.

Grix's first recording as a solo jazz artist, "freefall", is frequently aired on CBC radio's Disc Drive, hosted by Jürgen Gothe out of Vancouver, B.C. In Windsor/Detroit, Disc Drive can be heard from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday at 89.9FM.

The Oakland County Community Jazz Band, scholarship winners, vocalist Catherine Randall and alto saxophonist Drew O'Rio, and other talented members of the Farmington Musicals will also perform, accompanied by the OCC Jazz Band.

Tickets are \$20 and will include coffee, snacks and dessert. A cash bar will be available. There will be a silent auction and door prizes. Call (248) 471-6017 for tickets.

On display



Sign up to play: This 500,000th Steinway commemorative piano and three other legendary instruments are on display Friday and Saturday May 10 and 11, at Hammell Music, 15630 Middlebelt in Livonia. The public may sign up to play one of the four pianos during the exhibit. Call the store at (734) 427-0040 to reserve a 15-minute time slot. Sculptor Wendell Castle designed this piano's case. Signatures of Steinway artists create the detail along the diagonal lines of the instrument. Other pianos on exhibit are the concert grand played by Vladimir Horowitz, the concert grand on loan from Van Cliburn's personal collection and a limited-edition Rhapsody piano, designed by architect Frank Pollaro.

Livonia Civic Chorus swings into spring

The Livonia Civic Chorus presents its 37th annual spring concert, *Sing, Sing, Sing*, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 10-11, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia.

Tickets are \$10, \$6 seniors and students, and available at the door.

Join the chorus on a lively

musical travelogue that finds them *Putting on the Ritz* in New York. Travel along Route 66 then on the *Chattanooga Choo Choo* till your *Feeling Groovy*. Listen to the chorus *Sing Some Jazz* as they make their way to New Orleans to eat *Jambalaya*. Then get into the swing of things by *Dancing in the Streets*.

Proceeds from the performance

will be used to send a student from the Livonia area to Interlochen Music Camp for two weeks. Most recently the chorus set up a music scholarship in the memory of Sister Francine Van de Vyver to assist music students at Madonna College in Livonia. For more information, call Nora Gross at (313) 535-0139, ext. 264.

Kids help Blues Clues celebrate birthday

The big blue dog from Nickelodeon's preschool television show is celebrating her birthday and everyone's invited to attend the party Wednesday-Sunday, May 22-26, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit.

But before they do Blue will be at Laurel Park Place in Livonia 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May

11, for Ford and Blues Clues in to Safety Tour. Kids can sing songs, win tickets to the show, play games, and dance for an opportunity to win a walk-on role in *Blues Clues Live - Blue's Birthday Party*. Children ages 3 and older may enter the dance contest at the on-site registration table.

Best of all, Blue will be there to help kids and parents clue in to safety. Photos with the lovable blue dog will also be available. *Blues Clues Live - Blue's Birthday Party* features new songs and characters. Tickets are \$18.50 to \$29.50. Call (248) 433-1515. For more information, call (313) 471-6611.

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Golden Hits of Don Wop (Sonny Turner's Platters, Bill Parkney's Outrigger and Eric Burdon)	Heart wsg Eric Burdon	Little Bear • 11am & 7pm	Kenny Rogers	Billy Ray Cyrus	The Rippingtons, David Benoit & Jean Luc-Ponty	Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance	Michael Bolton	Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons (Felix Cavaliere & The Rascals, Lou Christie, The Association)	1964 Tribute...Beatles Tribute
Franklin the Turtle • 11am & 7pm	Al Green wsg Ann Nesley	Paul Anka	The Scintals	Hank Williams Jr.					

Tickets On Sale Now!
Tickets Starting at \$15 • Children's Shows \$10 (\$15 off the regular ticket price when you buy the series)

All shows and dates are subject to change.
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