

## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA CHOMIN

### DSO musicians paint colorful picture of Meadow Brook

Corbin Wagner gets a kick out of watching the audience from the stage of the Meadow Brook Music Festival. Even after more than two decades as a horn player with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Bloomfield Hills musician talks excitedly about the five weeks of light classical, traditional masterworks, and pops he performs with the orchestra during the summer.

Who wouldn't love playing music surrounded by nature? Corbin paints an especially colorful picture of the outdoor venue that's been the DSO's summer home since 1964. This year they take to the stage Friday, July 12 through Sunday, Aug. 11, for three separate series - Family Fun Fridays, Sensational Saturday Classics and Sunday Summer Pops.

Where: On the campus of Oakland University, Rochester.

Tickets: A five-concert subscription package ranges from \$90 for lawn to \$280 for Premium Pavilion. Call (313) 576-5120. Discounts available for students under age 18. Single tickets (\$18-\$59) can be purchased by phone at (313) 576-5111 or online at [www.detroitssymphony.com](http://www.detroitssymphony.com). A six-concert discount coupon book is \$110 for Pavilion B, and \$85 for lawn seats.

Rome and The Pines of Rome. The music describes the outdoors and scenes of nature. It's depicting scenes Respighi experienced. It's very thrilling music written after he had these visions in mind. At one point we have birds in there singing.

The July 12 concert "The Dances of Spain" mixes familiar music like Chabrier's *Espana* with relatively unheard works by Chausson and Ravel. It's music people don't hear that often. When you're out on the lawn you want things you can easily digest. It's something you want to listen to.

Please see CHOMIN, B2



Family fun: The Detroit Symphony Orchestra opens its Meadow Brook Music Festival with "The Dances of Spain." It is part of the Family Fun Fridays series.



## A celebration of legendary and emerging artists

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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Earl Klugh isn't the only one excited about returning to Detroit for the Jazzfest Thursday-Saturday, July 18-20, at Shain Park in Birmingham. Paraguayan harpist Roberto Perara and flutist Alexander Zonjic have followed the guitarist's more than 25-year career in the music business. They've performed nearly as long and can't wait to hear the acoustic guitar legend at the three-day festival sponsored by The Community House. This may be one of the last opportunities. Klugh moved to Atlanta in January after spending most of his life in Detroit where he was born in 1954.

It was here Klugh began playing piano at age 3 then switched to guitar at 10 "after conning his mom and dad" into buying him one. He briefly took classical guitar lessons until eventually going solo in a quest to master the instrument. By 16 he'd recorded with Yusuf Lateef but it was his guitar work on George Benson's *White Rabbit* in 1971 that gave him the recognition needed to record as a solo artist. Since 1976, he's released 30 albums on Blue Note, Capitol, Manhattan, and Warner Bros. At Jazzfest Klugh performs a musical retrospective that includes his recording *Feeling Situation*.

"I'm slowing down quite a bit and not doing as many dates a year but not slowing my creative output," said Klugh who still maintains a home in Southfield.

It's obvious Klugh still loves the guitar and plans to go into the studio at the end of the year to record new material. "I love the sound of it, what it can do," said Klugh. "Like the piano it's self contained." Perara is as enthusiastic about his Paraguayan harp as Klugh the acoustic guitar. At age 12 Perara enrolled at the Conservatory of Modern Music in his hometown of Montevideo, Uruguay just to learn how to play it. Eight albums later he's quickly earning a reputation for his Latin-inspired music that's hard to categorize. Influences of Pop, Jazz, Brazilian and Afro-Cuban rhythms can be heard in the 12 selections meant for easy-listening in his newest CD, *Sensual*, released March 26, is just that.

"The harp is traditionally used to play folk music in Paraguay and South America," said Perara from his home in

Miami. "I studied it 10-years then the Beatles came out and I was young and wanted to play Pop music on the harp so I created my own rhythms. I wanted to show people that a harp is a very cool and hip instrument. Harp had never been used that way before. My style is so unique because I created everything from scratch. I play so many different styles. I always compare it to food which I love. We don't like to eat the same every day. I like to try different styles, play not only one rhythm. That's why it's difficult to promote."

Perara's already been on the road introducing audiences in Puerto Rico and New York to the new CD before heading to Detroit. He performs 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 20.

"This is my first time in Detroit and I'm really looking forward to opening for Earl Klugh," said Perara. "I used to listen to him all the time and have a lot of his recordings. He's a fantastic guitar player."

Klugh's legendary guitar work is the reason Zonjic's tried for many years to book him as a headliner. As artistic director of Jazzfest, it's Zonjic's job to bring in the best as well as emerging artists. He's assembled an all-star group of his own to open the festival 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 18. Alexander Zonjic's Detroit Smooth Jazz All Stars, featuring Dave McMurray and Tim Bowman, perform a mix of music from their recordings. Zonjic's latest, *Reach for the Sky*, includes favorites such as *Angela*, the theme from *Taxi*, and *Bellavia*.

"There are so many jazz festivals we try to come up with something unique to that festival. We don't sell tickets so it allows you to be more creative," said Zonjic, the morning host on Smooth Jazz 98.7-FM. "This



Birmingham bound: Legendary guitarist Earl Klugh returns to the Detroit area to headline Jazzfest in Shain Park.

year we're real excited to have Earl Klugh. This is kind of a homecoming. We'll have Larry Carlton on Friday, one of the most sought after studio musicians. With one legendary guitarist on Saturday and a legendary guitarist on Friday a theme starts to develop as you start to program.

Roberto Perara, compliments Earl Klugh. It's a wonderful pairing. Chris Botti's touring with Sting brought him to a world wide audience. We have older legends, newer legends. Back by popular demand is Detroit Symphony Civic Jazz Orchestra, students tutored by Marcus Belgrave in the tradition of Ellington and Count Basie. We want to represent different facets of jazz. We're working on developing as a world class festival."



Latin-Inspired: Roberto Perara introduces the audience to the versatile rhythms of the Paraguayan harp.

### COMMUNITY HOUSE JAZZFEST

What: Earl Klugh headlines the 10th annual event featuring local and internationally known musicians

When: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, July 18, 6-9 p.m. Friday, July 19, and 1-9 p.m. Saturday, July 20

Where: Shain Park, north of Merrill, east of Bates, Birmingham

## BOOKS

### Author turns childhood fantasy into spy thriller

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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Jack Allen was like any other boy with an appetite for reading about the escapades of comic book heroes clad in red capes. He dreamed of possessing extraordinary physical abilities that would enable him to rescue damsels in distress. Then reality set in. After graduating from Trenton High School and earning a degree in film from Wayne State University, Allen went on to become a graphic designer for Michigan Pneumatic Tool in Detroit. But his wish to travel to foreign countries and fight evil didn't die.

Inside the pages of *Change of Heart*, his first novel, Allen takes on

### Murder, Mystery & Mayhem Bookfair

What: Five authors sign copies of their latest books

When: Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 20

Where: Antioch Lutheran Church, 13 Mile and Farmington Roads, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (866) 231-7591.

terrorists and KGB agents disguised as Josh McGowan, a Naval Intelligence officer. He'll sign copies of the spy thriller at the Murder, Mystery & Mayhem Bookfair Saturday, July 20, at Antioch Lutheran Church in

Farmington Hills.

"It's kind of a fantasy thing," said Allen, a Livonia resident. "It comes from reading comic books as a kid; wanting to be a super hero like Spiderman. Josh comes from that. He came out of a love for writing. I've spent most of my life writing short stories. Josh came out of a short story I just kept writing and writing. He starts out as a different kind of person, sort of a wimp, then evolves to a selfless kind of hero. He has fear but not fear that would stop him, and a sense of right and wrong."

Allen knew if he wanted to see the book in print he'd have to adopt Josh's whatever it takes to get the



Spy thriller: First-time author Jack Allen tracks a KGB spy in his fast paced novel "Change of Heart."

Please see ALLEN, B2