

Chomin *from page B1*

ten to bring your brie. The Chausson and Ravel are colorful and descriptive and DeFalla's *Three Corners* Hot people will recognize and feel like they're visiting Spain. But it's the Aug. 10 all Tchaikovsky program with the *1812 Overture* when I can watch people jump out of their chairs on the cannon shots."

Family event

Like Corbin, Larry Hutchinson is a long-time fan of the DSO's summer concerts. The Farmington Hills based thinks Meadow Brook is the perfect spot to bring children. He began taking his son Chris and daughter Ashley to children's concerts at age 4. By fourth grade Chris was sitting through a full length symphony. He now plays violin, piano and trumpet, Ashley the cello, piano and percussion. Both perform with the Detroit Symphony Civic Sinfonia.

"I like that we're doing family concert on Friday," said Hutchinson now in his 20th season at Meadow Brook. "I fun into so many people who've told me they remember going to Meadow Brook as a kid. It's a great opportunity to introduce kids to classical music especially if it's a lighter program. The Family Fun Fridays are lighter than a normal concert and have fireworks after. It's a nice family evening, a step up from a children's concert but not a full blown symphony concert. They might not go on to become a musician but they can still go to a symphony concert and appreciate it. And it's a great thing to do, a nice way to spend a summer evening."

"A must hear is July 27, Horacio Gutierrez plays *Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1*. He's one of my favorite pianists. It's beautiful warm playing. The music really reflects the way he is. He's extremely friends. He's a glorious pianist and the Brahms is one of my favorites."

Robert Bergman casts another vote for the July 12 concert with violinist Leila Josefowicz. "There a combination of Spanish and French style," said Bergman, a cellist with the DSO since 1989 and a Berkley resident. "The music is very exciting and romantic. And it's nice playing at that venue. It's one of the most beautiful outdoor settings in the country the way it's designed and laid out for outdoor acoustic performance of its type."

Bergman should know. He played at Tanglewood as a Fellowship student, studied with him in Chicago and Philadelphia, and listened to the New York Philharmonic in Central Park.

"I expect the Tchaikovsky and Beethoven (July 13) concerts to be popular. They tend to draw crowds. The music is so strong. And I'm looking forward to the July 29 'Gypsy Spirit' program with Peter Snavo (accordion and banjo). I've played Pizzola's *Adios Nonino* before with Peter and a small chamber ensemble and it was very well received. The dance like character wakes people up in a lively way."

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Author *from page B1*

job done attitude. When 16-publishers showed no interest, he started Burping Frog Publishing.

By August of 2001, the book, with dramatic black and red cover by Mickey Bryan, was now just a couple of steps away from ending up in readers' hands. Designing a marketing strategy was next on the list. Allen knew he wanted to sell the book and nothing would stop him.

"At the time I graduated from college I wanted to make movies but eventually I took a job and spent the next six years learning everything about advertising and marketing," said Allen. "I've been contacting media, contacting bookstore owners to make people aware the book exists. Bands make appearances after they record. I'm making as many appearances as I can to get exposure. It's a real hard sell."

Allen originally expected *Change of Heart* to be popular with men who like to read spy novels and mysteries but women seem to love it as well.

There's a hint of a love story going on between McGowan and RGB agent Valeria Konstantinova.

"I think it has to do with character," said Allen. "Josh has an idea about Valeria. There's a point in the story where he learns what she's all about and changes his mind about the mission. The idea is to create a good story from beginning to end. This is a guy not making a whole lot of money yet he travels to Moscow and Tokyo trying to find this woman and bring her back to the States."

'For me it's the progression of the writing process. I never know what's going to happen. I'm like the person who picks up and reads it for the first time. The characters have their own lives and determine what happens.'

Jack Allen
—Author

"I researched the locations for the names of cities and streets and a sense of what the cities are like. I have an interest in jets and cars and since I was a kid I've been reading books about planes and ships. It has to be accurate on the type of technology going to be used. You never know who's going to read it. Military people are sticklers for details. I researched military ranks and insignia on the Web and at the library, and by contacting Ron Brown who wrote *A Few Good Men*, a book about Vietnam. But there has to be a balance. You need to have a lot of details but not let them overwhelm the story."

Allen's wife Kim finds slips of paper all over the house. He jots down cryptic messages and details whenever or wherever they occur.

It's all part of the writing process for Allen who plans to release *An Innocent Among Them*, the second book in a series featuring Josh McGowan, later this year.

Somewhere along the line Allen hopes to find a New York publisher but in the meantime he'll keep churning out books for Burping Frog.

"For me it's the progression of the writing process," said Allen. "I never know what's going to happen. I'm like the person who picks up and reads it for the first time. The characters have their own lives and determine what happens. That's part of the fun of writing."

Yvonne Penslee not only likes the characters in *Change of Heart* but the fact it's a quick read.

That's why she chose it for the Murder, Mystery and Mayhem Bookfair featuring five authors with ties to Michigan.

Penslee owned the Murder, Mystery and Mayhem bookstore in Farmington for five years before closing it in April. Since then she's been holding book fairs every three or four months at Antioch Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

Among those signing books are Mark Terry of Oxford who recently released *Catch the Cur*.

"I like *Change of Heart* because it's very suspenseful," said Penslee, a Rochester Hills resident.

"It keeps the story line moving."

In addition to the book fair, *Change of Heart* is available at Waldenbooks in Westland Mall and Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Allen will ship a signed copy for \$14.

For more information, call Burping Frog Publishing at (734) 626-2643.

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