Love triangle takes center stage at Michigan Opera Theatre

Gluseppe Verdi probably would have appreciated the fact that Michigan Opera Theatre artistic director David DiChlera aristic director David Dichiera walted 15 years to bring the Italian composer's II Trovatore to the stage again. It wasn't because DiChiera didn't long to hear the famous Anvil Chorus. Rather he lacked the extremely talented soloists to perform the lead roles.

talented soloists to perform the lead roles.
DiChiera's dream to once more hear the haunting Miscerce of the final act comes three with the opening of a new co-production with Open. Pacific and Florentine Open of Milwaukee Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Detroit Open Flouse.
"It's one of the most performed opens since it was premiered and became so well known," said DiChiera. The hurdy gurdys would go around

microd and became so well known," said DiChiera. The hurdy gurdys would go around playing the music with their monkeys and collecting pennies. The music is just so beautiful and the most difficult to cast well. It needs four exceptional singers - tenor, soprano, mezzo and bartione. That's always a challenge. Verid singers are not as plentiful as they once were. DiChiera sourced the world to find a cast worthy of the Verdi oppera. Russian tenor Victor Afanasenko alternates with American Jeffrey Springer in the role of Mannico who's separated from his bruther at birth. Later, the wealthy Count di Luna becomes his nemesis.

American soprano Indra Thomas and Italian soprano Isabella Sacco vie for the attention of the brothers as Leonora, lady in waiting to the Queen of Aragon. Ukrainian baritone Yur Nechaev and his Chinese counterpart CX. Liao trade off dueling with Manrico for her affection.

Observer Classifieds really work!



The Michigan Opera Theatre last presented if Trovatore in 1988 at Masonic Temple.

"It was a two year project," said DiChiera. "The costumes were built in Belgrade as well as the new scenery. There are some very grand interesting pieces that symbolize elements in the story. In the convent scenes there are huge walls and stairways and in the midst of it all a stained glass rose hangs over it. An enormous chain hovers over the prison scene. It's exaggerated."

The story and the stair was a first and stairway and in the midst of the stair was a stained glass rose hangs over it.

The story and theatrical aspects of opera are what drove DiChiera to found the Michigan

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Opera Theatre in 1971. This sea-

Opera Theatre in 1971. This sea-ons productions were pro-grammed with those elements in mind. The theme of the sea-son – Objects of Desire – focuses on revenge, wealth, lust, fidelity and redemption. Don Pasquide, Donizetti's comic opera about a greedy under trying to keep his nephew from an inheritance, comes to the MOT stage Nov. 9-37. Don Glovanni, Mozart's opera based on the legendary conquests of Don Juan, follows April 26 to May 4. Tieldity is key to the May 4. Fidelity is key to the

know and love."

MOT's first opera of the new century debuts June 7-15.
Currently at the New York City Opera in Lincoln Center, Dead Man Walking was composed by Jake Heggie. It is based on the true story of Sister Helen Prejean, a nun who tries to comfort a victim's family as well as redeem the man she sees within

Viennese opera Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss Jr. May 17-25. DiChiera bills it as "an evening of pure romance and cham-pagne with music people will know and love."



October 11, 12 & 13 Fri. 9-9, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-5

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the monstrous murderer.

We're co-producing it with eight opera companies, said DiChiera. "It delves deeper into emotional levels than the novel and the Academy Award winning film, and the nun who's story it is plans to come for the production."

But opera isn't the only art practiced at Michigan Opera Fineatre, A Dance Series has gradually grown to include internationally accalamed companies. This season the more than 225-year old Bolshoi Ballet revives Swan Lake Nov. 20-24. The tale was first performed by the Bolshoi in 1077.

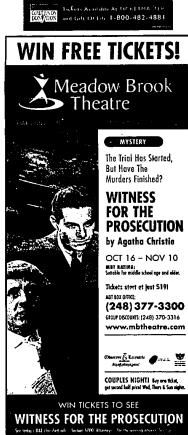
Bolshoi means big, It will take 130 dancers to do Swan Lake. It brings you in another

take 130 dancers to do Swan Lake. It brings you into another world of fantasy," sald DiChiera. "Alvin Alley returns in March (12-15) and The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago closes the season in

What: Giuseppe Verdi's romantic tragedy *II Trovatore* When: Saturday, Oct. 12 to Sunday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday Where: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway Tickets: \$18-\$105 and available by calling (313) 237-SING or online at www.MichiganOpera.org

May (6-11). It's our strongest senson for dance since the series first began in 1996."





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