

# Opening concert offers a rare chance to hear basset horns

**BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN**  
STAFF WRITER

Moury Okun expects the first concert of the Detroit Chamber Winds season to be an audience eager to hear basset horns. It's not often musicians have the opportunity to play the instrument. In fact, Okun had to borrow four of them from the University of Michigan just to perform Mozart's *Gran Partita* Sunday, Oct. 27, at Birmingham Unitarian Church in Bloomfield Hills. The Mostly Mozart concert opens the Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings 21st season.

"*Gran Partita* is a large scale work, one of the great wind pieces of the 18th century," said Okun, executive director of DCWS. "Some people think it's Mozart's greatest work. Mozart wrote a lot of great wind music. It's incredibly popular with audiences. A lot of people will come just for the piece. You don't hear professional performances done very often because you can't get the instruments that often."

"Our musicians don't regularly play on so they have to

**MOSTLY MOZART**

What: Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings begins its 21st season with Mozart's *Gran Partita*

When: 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27. Clarinetist Laurence Liberson gives a 2:15 p.m. pre-concert talk "What Is That Thing - Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About the Basset Horn"

Where: Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 North Woodward, Bloomfield Hills

Tickets: \$25, \$19 for students and seniors over age 60, \$10 children age 12 and under. A subscription ticket is available for all six concerts in the Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings season. The cost is \$110, \$90 seniors, \$60 students. Call (248) 559-2095

practice far in advance but it's such a great piece. This is the third time we've done it. We do it once every five years because of the quality of the music."

Laurence Liberson refers to the instrument as the Mel Tormé of the clarinet family. The Pleasant Ridge musician will talk about the basset horn before the concert at 2:15 p.m. A clarinetist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra since 1981 and a charter member of Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings,

Liberson will tell the audience everything they've ever wanted to know about the basset horn and then play the instrument developed in the latter half of the 18th century.

"It's a different kind of sound, a different voice," said Liberson. "It's a clarinet just a different one that's rare and hardly used. It's a neat instrument. It's a different kind of beauty."

"Mozart was the first composer to write anything worthwhile for the horn. *Gran Partita* is one

of the two most famous pieces. The other is his last piece, the *Requiem* which the DSO will perform in January. The *Requiem* introduced basset horns into orchestra instead of chamber music. It pretty much died with him. It has a quite quality. As orchestras got larger it wasn't heard."

After Mozart died music was basically written by traveling basset horn players in the first half of the 19th century.

"That was pretty much the rise and fall of the instrument until Richard Strauss," said Liberson. "He was writing opera and began using it. His opera in 1909 was for two basset horns. He wrote five more operas with it. The last 50 years there's been a mild resurgence of the instrument."


Liberson first discovered the basset horn in the early 1970s when his roommate at the University of Michigan decided to conduct the piece.

"I wanted to try the instrument," said Liberson. "Except for the name and having seen a picture of it the basset horn was a mystery to me."

"Those few pieces written for it are so great you want to have a piece of it. *Gran Partita* is the greatest wind piece ever written."




Laurence Liberson



## SEASON OPENER 2 FOR 1

2 Tickets for the price of 1  
Any Section (see brochure for seating chart)



**In The Mood**  
October 24, 2002 • 8 PM

An Exciting 1940's musical revue, swing jazz and much more!

Much more than a concert. *In the Mood* presents a retro 1940's musical revue featuring the String of Pearls singers and dancers with a sensational big band orchestra. The cast consists of a 17-piece big band orchestra, 7 singers and 4 dancers.

### CALL NOW FOR TICKETS! 248-557-PLAY (7529)

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE HELD AT  
THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE, SOUTHFIELD  
15600 J. L. Hudson Drive • Southfield, MI 48075

# HOMEARAMA

## ORION

### OCTOBER 17-NOVEMBER 3

**MONDAY-FRIDAY, 2-9pm**  
**SATURDAY, 10am-9pm**  
**SUNDAY, 10am-6pm**

Visit six exquisitely designed, built and landscaped homes. Each home has been uniquely created by the area's leading architects, builders and designers. Fabulous new homes reflecting the latest in architectural, interior design and landscaping concepts. An incredible source for furnishing and decorating ideas. Endless possibilities for every taste.

**ADMISSION: ADULTS-\$7, CHILDREN UNDER 12-FREE**



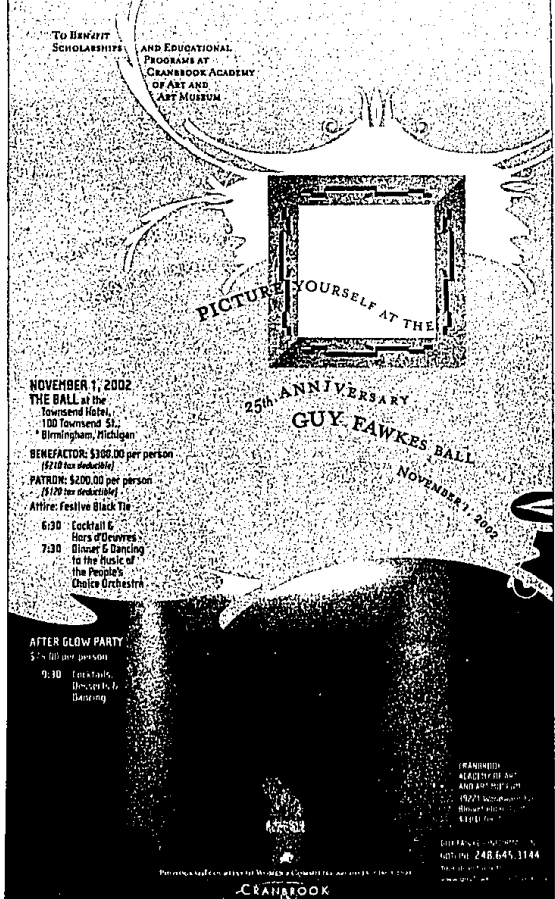
Turnberry Subdivision  
Located on Indianwood Road  
between Joslyn and Baldwin  
Orion Township

Sponsored by



**FREE PARKING**

TO BENEFIT  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRAMS AT  
CRANBROOK ACADEMY  
OF ART AND  
ART MUSEUM



PICTURE YOURSELF AT THE  
25th ANNIVERSARY  
GUY FAWKES BALL  
NOVEMBER 1, 2002

**NOVEMBER 1, 2002**  
**THE BALL at the**  
Townsend Hotel,  
100 Townsend St.,  
Birmingham, Michigan

**BENEFACTOR: \$300.00 per person**  
(\$210 tax deductible)

**PATRON: \$200.00 per person**  
(\$140 tax deductible)

**Attire: Festive Black Tie**


**6:30** Cocktail &  
Rara d'Orchestra

**7:30** Dinner & Dancing  
to the Music of  
the People's  
Choice Orchestra

**AFTER GLOW PARTY**  
\$10-15 per person

**9:30** Entertainment  
Dancing

CRANBROOK



## Angela Hospice

15th Annual  
**Light Up  
A Life  
Benefit**

**Friday, November 8, 2002**  
Laurel Manor ♦ 39000 Schoolcraft Road ♦ Livonia  
½ mile west of Newburgh Road

**Live Auction hosted by Local Media Celebrities**

Join  
Jane Bower, Cheryl Chodun, Ken Ford, Tracy Gary, Paul Gross,  
Sandy Kovach, Lila Lazarus, Rachel Nevada,  
Joanne Purtan and Fanchon Stinger.

Featuring  
**Live and Silent Auctions**  
**Two Raffles**  
**Elegant Sit-Down Dinner**

**TICKETS: \$65 per person**  
**Call (734) 464-7810**

All proceeds benefit the programs at Angela Hospice including the My Nest is Best Pediatric Program and the Good Samaritan program which ensures hospice care is available to everyone in the community, regardless of financial means. Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, is sponsored and operated by the Feldman Sisters of Livonia. Angela Hospice - compassionate care for children, adults, and families since 1985.

**Sponsors**

