### **MOT brings Donizetti's** comic opera to life

Michigan Opera Theatre continues its season with the company premiere of Gaetano Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* Nov. 9-17, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway

17, at the Detroit Opera House, 1826 Broadway.

The Italian comic opera is the lighthearted story of a rich bachelor who experiences the downside of having a young, headstrong and spendthrift bride. The production is the eleventh to be staged by Mario Corradi. Conductor Mark D. Flint returns to celebrate his 25th anniversary with Michigan Opera Theatre.

Italian bass Donnto di Stefano plays the aging bachelor, Pasquale. Chinese sopramo Ying Huang and American Jennifer Aylmer

alternate as Norina, Ernesto's love and

alternute as Norina, Ernesto's love and Pasquale's ultimate downfall.

The last successful opera by Donizetti, DOI Prasquale was first performed in Paris in 18-33 to a libretto by Donizetti and Giacomo Ruffini. Critically acclaimed as his comedie masterpiece, Don Pasquale is alive with humor. After wedding a much younger, sweet ingenue, Pasquale discovers she is a brazen hussy making his life miserable at the earls to \$105 and available.

Tickets are \$1s to \$105 and available by calling (313) 237-\$ING or online at www.MichiganOpera.org. Seniors and students may purchase half-price tickets one hour prior to curtain, subject to availability.



Ned Djordjevic, viola player, during a recent rehearsal at Churchill high. In background is Rita Kislyuk also on viola,

# Livonia Symphony just gets better and better

Robert Bennett refers to himself as "just a guy who likes music." That's the reason he's served on the Livonia served on the Livonia Symphony Orchestra board for 27 years, eight of them as presi-dent. Now in its 30th season, the nonprofit orchestra has gone through a lot of changes, but musically it's only gotten

but musically it's only gotten better.

Bennett thinks audiences wilf feel the same about the LSO when it opens the season Saturday, Nov. 9, at Churchill High School in Livonia. The pops and classical program features the music of Richard Rodgers, George M. Cohan, and guest artist Aaron Berofsky performing Felix Mendelssohn's Concerto in E. Minor for Violin & Orchestra. Berofsky earned his master's degree at The Julilard School in New York City and now teaches at the University of Michigan. He has performed throughout North and Central America, Europe, and the

America, Europe, and the Middle East.

Middle East.
There's some really great
music," said Bennett. 'I like the
first concert because of the
variety. It's going to be a fun
event because of that.
'Then there's The Nuteracker
with the Dearborn Ballet
Theatre (Saturday, Dec. 2) that
nearly always sells out, and
Rachmaninoff with Arthur
Greene Saturday, Jan. 18. The
Rachmaninoff is one of my

LIVONIA SYMPHONY **ORCHESTRA** 

What: Opens the season with guest violinist Aaron Berofsky performing Felix Mendelssohn's Concerto in E Minor for Violin & Orchestra

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9

Where: Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, north of Joy, Livonia

Tickets: \$16, \$10 students. Call (734) 425-4855

favorites, I just love it. I have vo or three versions at home." A chamber concert in the

two or three versions at home. A chamber concert in the intimate setting of the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium is sure to warm heart Sunday, Feb. 23. Then the LSO brondens its base with Of Kings and Resurrection Saturday, March 15, at Ward Presbyterian Evangelical Church in Northwille Township. We wanted to involve the church because it reaches more people, said Bennett. We're doing Johannes Brahms German Requiem and featuring the church's 80-wice choir. Bennett hopes the change of venue and new concert master Solomia Soroka, a Ukrainian

orenestra which had to each is six concerts to five because of a reduction in grants from major corporations and attendance at its annual golf outing and din-

its annual golf outling and dinreaction.

Tak become a better and better carchestra since we were
known as Oakway and played
concerts in Southfield,
Farmington Hills, Plymouth
and Livonia, 'said Bernett,
'We're larger than we used to
be. Now all we need is someone
to work at fund-raising as their
job on the board. We're dways
looking for now members who
are interested in working for an
orchestra to see its success. You
don't have to be a musician.'
Kathy Zuchniewicz credits
much of the orchestra's
improvement to conductor

Kathy Zuchniewicz credits much of the orchestra's improvement to conductor Volodymy Shesiuk, who's starting his eighth season. "Volodymy shesiuk very hard, said Zuchniewicz, a Novi violinist who also plays with the literal particular of the literal par

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raiser." Toby Kiritsis and her 10-per-son committee scour local art shows in search of salable objects for the Birmingham Temple invitational. The 30th annual event offers jeweby, clay, fiber, glass, drawing and painting, photography print-making, sculpture (indoor and outdoor), furniture and wood by more than 100 artists from the Midwest. A Friday night opening reception gives guests the first opportunity to purchase every-thing from West Bloomfield glass artist Debby Isaacs' lamp-worked bend jewelry to Tanmy Park Crenshaws painted chairs and tables. Proceeds will go to support Sunday school pro-grams. Kiritsis is proud to report 'last year's show made user. Toby Kiritsis and her 10-per-

more money than ever before."

"Jewelry was the biggest sell-er last year," said Kiritsis, the Livonia resident who's chaired the show since 1988. It's holi-day time. Hanukkah is right after Thanksgiving this year. It's a great show for gift giving, It's really like a happening. We have a range of prices. There will be something you'll be able to afford."

Suzanne Dolan Manji down-

will be something you'll be able to afford."

Suzanne Dolan Manji downsizes her art to make it less expensive for giving as one-of-akind gifts. Her India ink and watercolor paintings start at \$12 for lable top and wall pieces that can be grouped together. The still life may be small in size but big on meaning: Bamboo is supposed to bring good luck: the hearts make a personalized with the couple's names; and the pears are more than just a piece of fruit although they'd be perfect for any kitchen.

#### LOTS OF FEEDBACK

Customers have their own reasons for purchasing Manji's work. They frequently return to tell her where they placed her art and how people comment

art and how people comment on it.

A former nurse, Manji at age 30 decided to fulfill her need to reente by going to the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. By day, she works in mental health research at Wayne State University.

Her work is currently on display at Vin Brevis Gallery in Birminghum and Royal Oak, "Why pears?" asked Manji of Birmingham. "They're such a beautiful shape. Every one is different. They night have a beautiful color but the shape

isn't so great. Women are pear shaped. On a deeper level, women are beautiful despite what shape they are: It's about women are beautiful despite what shape they are: It's about women accepting themselves completely.

Plymouth artist Michele Riddle Bagnasce tries to provoke thought as well with her collage and assemblage featuring found objects such an old letter with vintage family photograph. Her work was selling fast at Arts, Berts & Eats Labor Day weekend. In fact, she won best of mixed media.

The processes Nina Mann uses to create jewelry are a show stopper as well. The Southfield artist does the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center's spring show and the fall Art in the Park presented by Common Ground at Shain Park in Birmingham. This is her first time in many years at the Birmingham femple show because she's so busy filling orders. Mann also does the wholesale show put on by the American Craft Council in Baltimore. Her work is in more than 50 galleries around the country.

"It's an oriental process called keum boo and consists of the application of 24 K gold to sterling silver," said Mann. "It's labor intensive, very unique, A lot of people are drawn to the combination because you can wear it with gold or silver. The second is a Japanese process, shibuichi, used by ancient.

Japanese swordsmen for decorating the hills of their swords. I melt copper and pure silver together to form an inget then form it into a sheet which is then cut and fabricated. The result is beautiful colors."

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FROM PAGE BI

competitive."
Fiber artist Celia Block compares it to a mini Ann Arbor
Art Fair. The West Bloomfield resident will show hand-paint-ed silk scarves, and pieced jack-ets and vests. Her current work frequently mixes animal prints with bright colors. Block began painting silk 15 years ago. This is her fifth year in the Birmingham Temple show.

AN HONOR

"It's an invitational show," said Block. "I'm quite honored hecause it means people like your work and buy it. Customers will see me at 10 shows before this one but will wait till that show to make a donation because it's a fund-raiser."