B3 (F) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 1, 2002



Celebrate Christmas in the Middle Ages

The Waverly Consort performs seasonal music from the Medieval era

BY LINDA SPARKWAN CORRESPONDENT

Musle will transport listen-ers to another ern on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills.

Dec. 3, at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. It will send the audience back to a time long before Silent Night and O Come All Ye Faithful became popular holi-day standards; back to Medieval Europe, where instru-ments and human voices com-bined in eerie, moving patterns. The Waverly Consort, an ensemble of eight singers and five reproduction instrumental-ists, will perform The Christmas Story, an adaptation of music-drama Christmas cel-cbrations from the Middle Ages, at 8 pn. at the church, located at Lone Pine and Cranbrook are co-sponsoring the group's appearance. Thave watched and waited for this for years and have been in contact with the (group's) agent, said Elib E DeWolfe, pro-gram chair for the Cranbrook Music Guild. Tt is an expensive undertaking. I knew the Music Guild couldn't swing it on their own. Last winter, DeWolfe discoy-

Guite could tawng it on their own. Last winter, DeWolfe discov-ered that the New York-based Waverly Consort had been booked into Kalamazoo College for a December 2002 holiday concert. She figured they might be willing to perform a second show in Michigan. That's 2 1/2 hours down the read. It's in our back yard as far a booking music people, she said. T thought, 'Oh, boyt' That was my dream. But I knew I

would need an angel or two to underwrite it." She pitched the idea to the Cranbrook Music Guild and to the choir director at (Christ Church Cranbrook. "He (the director) knew it was something that was really good. They (the church) jumped at it." The Waverly Consort's 70-minute concert will include liturgical English, French, Spanish and Italian music-dra-mas from the 10th through the 10th centuries. An eight-page printed program, including a complete English translation of the test, will enhance the effect of the authentic verse, sung in Latin. The group employs theatrical techniques used long ago, such as lighting contrasts, along with musical and Youal combina-tions from times past. The acoustics and Gohlia architec-ture of Christ Church Cranbrook also help replicate an early European cathedral. "It begins with the church in omplete darkness. It starts with three minutes of singing from back of the church. Little by little, they move down the alse and the lights come up. DeWolf described the port starter today, its strictly. Middle Ages music." That performance of medieval music. Today, one can find scores of modern Christimas programs, but musi-cal "traditions" hat to start somewhere, and finsing their roots is a meliculo are includer and the minute of sing picet in a scores of modern constring a meliculo are includer.



The Waverly Consort Is an ensemble of eight singers and five reproduction instrumentalists.

The nevery consort is an ensemble of e turies. Early musical notations were nothing like the neally placed symbols today's vocalists and musicains read. In fact, music written for instrumental parts was virtually nonexistent. Chants from medieval Spain, masses from England and the 12th century liturgical drama, *The Play of Herod*, are all brought to this dramatic re-telling of the story of Christ's birth. Pulling these roots together to culminate in this powerful interpretation is an impressive feat. Past performances have brought rave reviews. The Los Angeles Times said, "This is the way to begin the Christmas sea-son." The Chicago Tribune called it, "One of the joys of the season."

season." The Waverly Consort first performed The Christmas Story in New York, at the

Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Medieval Sculpture Court in 1980. Today, they still per-form in the museum, but they've moved to the Cloisters to accommodate larger audi-errors.

١F

UPCOMING EVENTS

Handel's Thomas Sheets conducto Janice Chandler seprene Bejun Mehta count Ene Cutler unter Dean Elzinga best-beritate Messiah (Mozart edition) UMS (horal Union Arbor Symphony Dichestra fri 12/63pm Sat 12/7 8 pm Hichigan Theater + Ann Arbar Hessiah as you've never beard it before? In the

Arsuado a you're nere haard it before! In the poter's main maa considered a ferm of thotte poter's muin maa considered a ferm of thotte rather than ground for largitons of mark 40 years after thotat's organal premered in Dublin, Alpaart erevised the predio ostaoin, adding more main af the solato. Arsiadh on the solation and resolving annual fly a UMS since the Charal Umon's found-ing in 1317, and the balved data Albar tradhoot kicks off a neek of holdge concerts. has and a third generates in 2001 of Gall and Im

Keith Lackhart conducto Kathleen Brett soorane with the University Singers California State University, Fullertan

Cruite Jame - Ann Arbor The Batson Pops (splonde Orchettra takes center court in Cruiter Alerna for a special holi-day concert. Complete with versional music, standard game - time concessions, as ing-ologic of pour foronce holidary tunes, and quest ' appraances by Santa Claus and other local celobrites – including actor jelf Daneits reading "Taas the light Before Divisions" – the evens it berefest holidary celebration the entire family! fannan eilin affen in de fannan Mall 92.3 M.

Emerson

fri 12/13 spm Racham Auditorum - Ann Arbor Mith su Grammy anatidi, including tha for Best Classical Album, the Emersons "give playing al exceptional technical accomplishment and an unusually wide expressive range " (Gramophone) String Duartet

PROGRAM Smetana PROGRAM Smetana String Quartet in eminor, Op. 116 ("From My Life") Shottakeveth String Quartet No 8, Op. 110 Schubert String Quartet in diminor, D. 810 ("Drath and the Maiden")

response with the greatest support of last and Dayton Willia Reaf a Special SCIE #1.3 Mil



•



temporary audiences

 10000
 734.764.2538 www.ums.org

 Minde be 13 are of all 800.221.1229

 Minde be 13 are of all 800.221.1229

 Minde be 13 are of all 800.221.1229

WAVERLY CONSORT

www.observerandeccentric.com

What: A concert on medieval instruments When: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3 Where: Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, corner of Lone Pine and Cranbrook roads (one mile west of Woodward) Cost: \$30 Tickets: Available at the door. (248) 644-5210, Ext. 56

"They play to standing room only crowds," DeWolfe said. In addition to The Christmas Story, the group performs music of Europe and the Americas from the 10th to the 19th century throughout the year.

Juint reas non throughout the year. Michael and Kay Jafee founded the group in 1964, in an effort to preserve the sounds and styles of early music. The musicians have toured North America and the Far East. The group also has several record-ings, including The Christmas Story (Wave Records, WAV 13069) on compact disc. Tickets will be available at the door, and a festive reception in the Guild Hall will follow the performance.

1

- Staff writer Sharon Dargay con-tributed to this story.



Holiday Classic! **NOV 29-DEC 22** by Charles Dickens, adaptation and original staging by Charles Nolte RATED & for all andences



for Londog Balls, Lists, Robby Colls & Box, yo ta server subfactor

Sei & Solora Sai & Solora Sai/San Zra San & Son

n Å Louis

--- 🎽



- 2 **Boston Pops** Esplanade Orchestra Roliday Concert!

3



Sun 12/8 6 pm Crister Arena + Ann Arbor