

## NOEL NIGHT

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performances by Mosaic Youth Theatre, Marcus Belgrave, Doc Holliday, and Rudy Salazar.

"What makes the evening special is the ambience. There's a real spirit to the night with so many people coming together, the music and the shopping, and huge flakes of snow beginning to fall at around 8:45. There's a warm holiday spirit with all the luminaries and horse-drawn carriage rides. It takes you back to another time."

## KIDZ KLEZ BAND OF MICHIGAN

The music of the Kidz Klez Band of Michigan promises to transport visitors to another time and place. The 22-member group performs at 7:15 p.m. in the Diego Rivera Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Klezmer music flourished in Eastern Europe more than one thousand years ago and mirrored the Jewish culture. Early musicians were influenced by gypsies. Today, the Kidz Klez Band of Michigan plays traditional klezmer music as well as Israeli, Yiddish, folk and dance melodies.

Founded six years ago by Cantor Stephen Dubov of Chaye Olam in West Bloomfield, the group consists of 22 kids, grades 8 to 12, playing clarinet, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, drums, keyboards, flute, and violin. This is their third appearance at Noel Night, where they will sell their CD *New York City or Bust*. Although they're a professional band, they have no budgeted operating funds and rely on contributions from individuals and the organizations for which they perform. Sales of the CD will help the band make their dream of playing Carnegie Hall come true on July 1. In the meantime they continue to rehearse at local nursing homes spreading enjoyment with their music.

"I told them if you stick together and practice, practice, practice you'll make it to Carnegie Hall," said Dubov, who conducts and sings with



Bernadine Vida took this photograph of Ramadan lanterns in a tunnel on the way to a Cairo mosque. It is one of 200 images on exhibit at the International Institute of Detroit through Jan. 31.

the band. "They're all Jewish kids representing seven synagogues. Some of the songs we'll do are *I Have a Little Dreidel*, several Hanukkah songs, various upbeat fun tunes considered klezmer tunes. A lot are in minor keys which is usually considered sad music. Many of these were played back in the ghetto and the camps during the Holocaust and meant to be happy music."

Emily Schwartz joined the band four years ago just because she wanted to have fun and play professionally at events like Noel Night. The 15-year-old Birmingham clarinetist is a student at Cranbrook Educational Park in Bloomfield Hills where she plays with the Symphony Band and Orchestra.

"It's a lot of fun," said Schwartz. "You can hear other bands. There's a ton of people, a lot of art. It's cool listening to other musicians. You get ideas

from them.

"Klezmer is a cross between jazzy and Jewish music. It's pretty jazzy. We do a lot of improvisation. We take old Jewish songs and give them new melody."

## SOUNDS OF DULCIMER

Charlene Berry takes traditional Christmas carols like *Silent Night* and with her dulcimer makes them sound as they would have during the Victorian era. The Plymouth resident began treating audiences in Chelsea and Holly to the music in early November. On Dec. 7 she'll perform at the museum in Tecumseh during the day, then travel to the Park Shelton (16 East Kirby) to perform from 5-9:30 p.m. at Noel Night. Just outside the lobby is where the horse-drawn carriage rides depart.

"Noel Night is nice," said Berry. "There are crafts booths

and activities all over town.

People come and tell me they like the music," said Berry, who teaches dulcimer at Village Music in Plymouth. Her radio program, *Charlene Berry's Dulcimer World*, can be heard 7-8 p.m. Fridays on WPON AM 1490.

"The dulcimer dates back to ancient times and lends itself to a traditional Victorian Christmas. It was very popular in Victorian times and is now growing in popularity."

## TUBA CHRISTMAS

Tuba has never been a popular instrument as Karen Missavage recalls, especially when she was in high school at Birmingham Groves.

That's changing at least for Noel Night in Detroit and across the country as musicians gather for TubaChristmas. Founded in 1974 by Harvey Phillips as a tribute to William J. Bell, who was born on Christmas Day in 1902, the

annual event is a celebration of the instruments used by tuba and euphonium players. In Detroit, Missavage is coordinating the concert taking place 7:30 p.m. on Woodward Avenue, between Kirby and Farnsworth, as part of Noel Night. For more information about events in other parts of Michigan and the U.S., visit the Web site at [www.tubachristmas.com](http://www.tubachristmas.com).

"You have to be in love with the instrument to play it," said Missavage, a Beverly Hills resident who also plays in the Ann Arbor Cajun and zydeco group *Maison Bleue*. "It's shaped like a large piece of plumbing. In the band room in high school people tend to use it as a waste basket. People make jokes but I play it because it's fun. It's definitely a different sound. It's the lowest instrument in the band. I like the different flavor you'll get."

But Noel Night isn't all music.

Santa and his reindeer stop

at the New Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R. Santa appears at several of the venues for photographs with kids. Dancers in all styles perform at several of the venues.

Everywhere the cultures of different countries come together for Noel Night. Bernadine Vida of Redford shows nearly 200 color photographs from Spain, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Morocco, France, Tunisia, and Crete at the International Institute of Detroit, 111 East Kirby.

Stop by for a look and then visit the Small World Cafe for a taste of ethnic holiday fare (5:30-8:30 p.m.).

"*Ethnographics* is glimpses of life in other places," said Vida. "I stay with people, make arrangements to stay at monasteries and local bed and breakfast so I can go to the bakery in the morning and meet people, or I go to a church, synagogue or mosque and meet them there. It affords me an opportunity to get to know people and for them to let me take their photos."

A costume designer by trade, Vida began taking photographs during a 1998 trip to Greece with the University of Detroit Classic Theatre program. She creates the images between her professional work as a wardrobe designer and costumer. Vida is about to begin working on a commercial for Levi jeans in the United Kingdom, and a Mercury announcement for the auto show in January. After the holidays she'll design costumes for Larry Shue's play *The Foreigner* at Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester in February. Several costumes Vida designed for the Detroit Dance Collective, including a lion headress from the *Carnival of the Animals*, are on exhibit as part of *Ethnographics*.

Although Vida worked on Eminem's film *8 Mile* and many exciting projects over the years, she enjoys all the different aspects of Noel Night.

"It's a great family activity, an international activity with things going on from countries around the world," said Vida. "I'm excited to be part of it."

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