

NEW YEAR

FROM PAGE B1
Rackham Symphony Choir presents *The Reluctant Dragon* with life-size puppets from Puppet Art at Detroit Puppet Theater, Feb. 28, in the Milford High School Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets and information, call (248) 889-8660.

The Community House in Birmingham is hosting a trip to see Lang Lang, a 20-year-old Chinese pianist, when he performs with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Friday, March 7. For more information, call (248) 644-8892. The \$89 cost includes transportation, concert ticket and lunch at The Whitney.

Gaining a reputation for his ability to connect with audiences on a personal level, Lang has already performed with the *Chicago Symphony* and *New York and London* philharmonics. His performance with the Philadelphia Orchestra drew an audience of 8,000 to the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

In addition to the concert spotlighting Lang, the DSO still has several noteworthy programs left this season, including the world premiere of Michael Daugherty's *Fire and Blood* for violin and orchestra. The concerto was inspired by the "Detroit Industry Murals" created by Diego Rivera at the DIA 70 years ago. A member of the composition faculty at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor, Daugherty began a four-year tenure as DSO Composer-in-Residence during the 1999-2000 season.

For tickets, call the DSO box office at (313) 576-5111.

DIA

From the outside, the DIA still appears in the midst of its massive building project, and it is. The South Wing addition has been completed, and the space-age climate control system is up and operating. Shortly, the American Galleries will be reinstalled, but the blockbuster of 2003 (after 2002's *Degas and the Dance* closes Jan. 12) is sure to be "Magnificent The Medici, Michelangelo and the Art of Late Renaissance Florence," which opens March 16, and continues to June 8. Organized by the DIA, this landmark exhibition explores the effect of the first four Medici Grand Dukes, who used art to symbolize power while ruling Tuscany from 1537 to 1631. Among the nearly 180 works are major sculptures and drawings by Michelangelo including *Apollo/David*, the first marble work to be landed to a museum in the United States, and one of the last works he created — a carved wooden crucifix.

Timed tickets go on sale Jan. 15, for \$12, \$6 ages 6-17. Call (866) 334-2784, for discounted group tickets (313) 833-1292 or online at www.dia.org

MOT

Sister Helen Prejean's true story about her experiences with a death row prisoner comes to the opera stage June 7-16. Part of the Michigan Opera Theatre season, *Dead Man Walking* is performed in English. Sister Prejean will be here for a week as the company brings this new production to life.

Composed by Jake Heggie with libretto by Tony Award-winning playwright Terrence McNally, the opera recalls the Louisiana nun's attempts to comfort the victim's families and reach Joseph de Rochem, the man she saw inside the monster. It was based on Prejean's best-selling novel and the Academy Award-winning film that followed.

Although not new to the Detroit Opera House but still worth noting, the MOT dance series continues with the return of the *Thin Alley American Dance Theater* Wednesday-Sunday, March 12-16, and the *Joffrey Ballet of Chicago* Thursday-Sunday, May 8-11. For information or tickets, call (313) 237-SING or visit the Web site at www.MichiganOpera.org

BBAC

After the first of the year, Janet Torno is sending out save-the-date postcards for the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center's next fund-raiser, "Summer Solstice: A Celebration of Light," on June 28. For information, call (248) 644-0866.

"I'm really, really excited about a brand new event with a live auction and an outdoor installation, Birmingham architect/artist (and Cranbrook graduate) Vincent Sansalone is doing something Christo-like to wrap the art center. It's a mystical sculptural landscape installation," said Torno, BBAC executive director.

"It's a fund-raiser with dancing and a strolling supper. We're working with the galleries in town to help secure art for the auction."

The arts center is setting up a Washington, D.C. art tour led by

Princeton-educated art historian Deborah Kawsky Friday, Saturday, May 2-4 (see guest column).

Kawsky also gives lectures related to the DIA exhibit opening in March. Her "Michelangelo and the Medici, The Legacy of Michelangelo: Late Renaissance Art in Florence" runs Wednesday mornings April 2, 9, 16 and 30, and May 7.

PCAC

Don't miss the Plymouth Community Arts Council's year-long "Celebration of Women" if you're interested in the accomplishments of artists working in a variety of media. January's exhibit spotlights the talents of watercolorist Donna Vogelstein and ceramists Ruth Price and Margaret Nowak. Feb. 10 to March 3, the Arts League of Michigan brings in its *Art for the People*. Sandra Hanson gives her presentation, "Women's History Alive," in March (also the month for the always-fun dinner auction), followed in April by a collection of quilting, beading, weaving, arts and crafts passed from generation to generation.

"It's part of the cultural diversity series. We thought 'Why not focus on the culture of women?' education coordinator Leslie Greenstein said.

Tickets are now available for the March 14 fund-raiser, at a special discount before the end of the year. Call (734) 416-9278.

PCCA

Collaboration is the name of the game for a new fund-raiser at Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester. Pop T'Ar, a pop art techno party featuring

an exhibit from Detroit's CPop Gallery takes over the arts center 7-11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7. A donation of \$5 is suggested. The show continues through Feb. 28. For information, call (248) 651-4110.

The staff of Paint Creek always seems to be working on a number of activities and exhibits no matter what the time of year. Next year is no exception. Along with the exhibit showcasing 60 years of art by Zubei Kachadoorian through Jan. 25, they're preparing to open a display of ceramics by Henry Innaka Jan. 6. The Art At Home Tour follows on Jan. 25. Visitors will have the chance to view the collection of Gerald Yurk, who bought all of the works at the arts center for its primary fund-raiser, Art & Apples, held annually in September.

Other events of interest include a March 14, lecture on Renoir by Michael Farrell, and a spring walk featuring 10 Rochester galleries including Robert Head's new Project Photographic Gallery March 20. In between these timely events, Phase 1 of a building project continues to move right along. By January the new

classrooms will be completed so offices can move next door a month later. "With the purchase of the home next door, we're going to be able to expand our facilities in the future," public relations coordinator Heather Welch said. "We've expanded secondary classroom space and brought the photo studio up from the basement and made it larger. It's really great. We can fit more students in when classes begin Jan. 13."

CRANBROOK ART MUSEUM

Although not new for 2003, the Post-Digital Painting exhibition deserves a mention. Influenced by the computer age, 12 contemporary international painters explore art and vision in the age of technology. The show continues to March 23 at Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 645-3323.

A highlight of the exhibition is a talk by Amy Ayes, one of the artists, at 2 p.m. Jan. 25, in deSalle Auditorium. A native of Germany, she lives and works in Chicago.

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