

Arts & Entertainment

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Hot tickets

Law Day

Learn the "10 Legal Mistakes People Make" and how to prevent them, 6 p.m., Thursday, May 1, at the Borders Books and Music at 13 Mile Road, Sherry Wells, an attorney and author of *Michigan Law for Everyone*, is giving the presentation in celebration of Law Day. For more information, call (248) 543-5297 or visit www.lawells.net.

Hustle

Let Shirley Mitchell teach you how to do the Hustle 7-9 p.m. Friday, May 9, during a two-hour inter-generational dance class at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road (between Inkster and Middlebelt) in Livonia. Suggested donation is \$8. Call (734) 421-1760 or visit www.unityoflivonia.org.

Treat Mom

All aboard for Mother's Day Dinner on the Michigan Star Clipper Dinner Train, Pontiac Trail, north of Maple Road in Walled Lake. Mom will enjoy a three-hour train excursion and five-course gourmet dinner with live entertainment on Sunday, May 11. Train leaves at 5 p.m. Cost is \$72.50 per person, all mothers receive \$10 off. Reservations required, call (248) 960-9440, www.michiganstarclipper.com.

Write on

Four days of poetry, fiction and non-fiction workshops, readings by faculty and students, and panel discussions on publishing and creative writing programs are highlights of the Far Field Retreat for Writers, Thursday-Sunday, May 15-18, at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Featured writers include Maureen Dunphy, Thomas Lynch, and Gerry Lafemina. For more information, visit www2.oakland.edu/english/farfield.

Cranks

At long last, Cranks 59th Street Pub, 39123 W. 10 Mile Road, inside the Holiday Inn in Farmington Hills, opened its doors to the public after months of remodeling. "It's

an old English pub concept with a touch of American flair," said Brian Sanders, general manager. The menu offers hearty, old-fashioned English recipes such as shepherd's pie and fish and chips. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Call (248) 477-5621 for information.

Family adventures

Tell us about the adventures you've planned for your children this summer to win tickets to Dora the Explorer Live! - Search for the City of Lost Toys. May 7-11 at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Family four-packs of tickets will be awarded for the Wednesday, May 7, and Thursday, May 8, performances, and two family four-packs for the Friday, May 9, performance. Send entries, along with your address and daytime telephone number, to Keely Kaleski, Assistant Managing Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314 or e-mail kkaleski@oe.hometown.com. Entries must be received by Friday, May 2.

Fire and Blood

Auto industry murals inspire composer

BY LINDA ANN CHONIM
STAFF WRITER

Diego Rivera predicted one day a composer would turn his Detroit Industry murals into music.

It took 70 years but Detroit Symphony Orchestra composer-in-residence Michael Daugherty has captured the spirit of the Detroit Institute of Arts frescoes in *Fire and Blood* for Violin and Orchestra. The work makes its World Premiere with the DSO and conductor Neeme Järvi Thursday-Sunday, May 1-4, at Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

Internationally known violinist Ida Kavafian is featured soloist, assuming the role of the worker in Daugherty's salute to the men and women whose blood, sweat and tears helped build the automobile industry.

Just as the machinery and workers of Ford's Rouge plant inspired the Mexican modernist artist to paint the magnificent murals depicting the dance of the assembly line, Daugherty was moved to create a musical fresco for violin and orchestra.

'INCREDIBLE'

"I first saw the murals 10 years ago," said Daugherty. "The minute I walked in the room I thought these were incredible. I thought about how Diego after visiting the plant heard music in his head and said some day a composer would set the sound for the murals to music."

"I had to think a lot about it and spent a year writing the music. There's so much in the mural. I had to focus on a few of the elements and bring the personality of Diego Rivera in, and Frida Kahlo, a painter in her own right. She was also an important component. They hadn't been married long before they came to Detroit. They talked every day about the murals."



The Detroit Symphony Orchestra performs the world premiere of Michael Daugherty's *Fire and Blood*, a violin concerto inspired by the Diego Rivera murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Listening to Daugherty talk about Rivera it's obvious he admires the Mexican muralist. After all, they're kindred spirits creating work about life in their own times. Daugherty composes music about American popular culture. Rivera captured the life of the Mexican peasant and the Communist Party. An ardent member, Rivera believed in the power of the worker.

DISCUSSIONS

Daugherty discusses the frescoes and Rivera at pre-concert talks that include slides of the murals. Sunday's concert is part of the DSO's Introduction to the Classics series and features an in-depth discussion.

Commissioned by Edsel Ford for the Detroit Institute of Arts, Rivera worked on the *Detroit Industry* murals from July 1932 to March

PLEASE SEE DSO, B2

FIRE AND BLOOD



Michael Daugherty intensely researched Diego Rivera murals and life before sitting down to compose the music for *Fire and Blood*.

What: Detroit Symphony Orchestra World Premiere of Michael Daugherty's work celebrating Detroit Industry murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts

When: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, May 1-2; 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3; 3 p.m. Sunday, May 4. The Sunday concert is part of the Introduction to the Classics Series and opens with the composer talking about what inspired him to write the violin concerto

Where: Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Tickets: \$15-\$56, limited number of box seats available for \$48-\$80. Tickets for Introduction to the Classics Series are \$28, \$40 box seats. Call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com.

Spring's here: Enjoy eating in the great outdoors

BY ELEANOR HEAD
CORRESPONDENT

Winter was long in southeast Michigan. In early spring, Mother Nature threw many curve balls, and not the standard kind in Detroit's Comerica Park.

Now, we're all itching for sunshine, warm days and the potential to eat in the great outdoors. Consider this your metro guide to interesting spots.

UMBRELLAS AND MORE

Signature red umbrellas opened on the expansive Stone Terrace at Big Rock Chop & Brew House in Birmingham on the spring tease of April Fools Day. Umbrellas came down during the ice storm and snow that followed. But they're up now for the warm months to come.

Although the menu is the same for indoor and outdoor eating, the crowd under the umbrellas at lunch favor Chop House barbecue chicken salad or Cobb salad. Executive Chef Nina Scott's gazpacho is a warm weather treat. An appetizer tray dubbed Whirly Birds is a favorite with early evening regulars, then as it gets later, fish or grilled steaks get the call.

Most ordered brews are Big Blonde

EATING OUT

Light and Norm's Raggedy Ass, which Brewmaster Dean Jones has "hopped up" to an India Pale Ale-style. New on the summer drinks menu are pineapple martini and an Absolut Appleini, made with Granny Smith apples marinated on premises.

Various jazz groups entertain on Tuesday evening; every Wednesday, it's jazz by The Warren Commission.

In warm weather, rain or shine, the cafe doors in the expanded dining room at Porto open to create a street-side cafe which can also be reserved for private parties up to 54 people. The main dining room menu at lunch and dinner — which also includes daily specials from Executive Chef Tim Voss — is the same for the cafe.

Beginning in late May, Sand Bar (street level of Ocean Grille) in Birmingham offers the acclaimed seafood-oriented menu of the Ocean Grille. Seating accommodates 32 people.

MORE BREWS OUTDOORS

If you believe that freshly brewed beer

PLEASE SEE OUTSIDE DINING, B3



Relax and unwind on the outdoor patio at Comerica Park. In the evening, Comerica's regulars like their cocktails and wine on the patio.

PHIL HERSCHMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER