

# Young Musicians Make Musical History



YOU KNOW this is a serious orchestra when you watch Elise VanDen Bosch on the Viola.



THE FOUNDATION of the Junior Orchestra, the string bass player section is well-manned by Stephen Misiewicz and Lea Crandall.

As Mayor Moelke proclaimed May 15-22 Livonia Symphony Week, Livonia Youth Symphony Society members took time out to look back over the years and point with pride to the rapid growth and the accomplishments of the Society and its orchestras.

For nine years young musicians have been rehearsing Saturday mornings at Bentley High School, Livonia, under the sponsorship of the Livonia Youth Symphony Society, Inc. During these years concerts have been performed and special musical events have been featured that will long be remembered by Society members and citizens of the community. There was the performance of Boris and Gudonov in that first season in 1959, the Scandinavian Symphony in an all Sibelius concert, the United States Marine Band, the Sist Trio and young artists like violinist Darwyn Appel and now Livonia pianist, Damon Adams. This year's performance of "Hansel and Gretel" with the Piccolo Opera Company furnished a musical extra for the year.

In the first year under the presidency of Loretta Petroskey, carillonneur and then organist of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Livonia, and the musical direction of William Savola, visionary and demanding young orchestra conductor from Bentley High School, the struggling new Symphony Society sponsored one orchestra, the Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestra. This orchestra started out with an ambitious program including works of Beethoven, Brahms, Sibelius, Moussorgsky and other great music from unsimplified scores.

Within a year following its organization the Society was planning the formation of a new orchestra for younger musicians as a training orchestra for the Youth Symphony. Every year saw new developments. A Women's Auxiliary was formed to aid in fund raising. There was an attempt to organize an adult orchestra to meet the needs of the older and more advanced in the Youth Symphony, but this

venture was not embarked upon because of financial considerations.

Beginning the 1965-66 season with two youth orchestras successfully under way, the Symphony Society again considered the formation of a third orchestra, this time an elementary string group. Now the orchestra is well-manned by the Society are the Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestra, Lester Farkas conducting.

for musicians of outstanding talent from the ninth grade through college age; the Junior Orchestra of Livonia, with Robert Randall as conductor, for junior high age level and the new String Orchestra of Livonia under Albert Larson, for promising young string players from fifth grade through seventh grade. All three orchestras are made up of young people from Livonia and surrounding communities.

When a total of 180 young musicians gather for rehearsal each Saturday morning, the activity is awesome if not overwhelming. Providing refreshments at break time for the three groups is a feat in itself, not to mention the collection of tuition, ticket and picture money, the distribution of tickets, flyers, letters to parents and newsletters. This on top of photographers and news reporters can sometimes become somewhat harassing to the conscientious conductor trying to meet a program deadline.

All this effort and much more behind the scenes has resulted in some pretty satisfying accomplishments to orchestra and society members alike.

This year, besides the formation of the String Orchestra, the Society looks back upon these other "firsts." This year for the first time the Youth Symphony was asked to perform at the important public function of the Mayor's inauguration. This year the Youth Symphony played to its largest audience over 1,000 in March at Franklin School. This year the first Symphony Ball is to take place Friday

evening May 20 at Idyl Wyld Golf Club. Perhaps most important this year, the new Advisory Committee to the

Board of Directors of the Society has spearheaded a movement to form an arts council for Livonia.



BEATING OUT the rhythm on the drums in the Junior Orchestra is Mark Friedrichs and Stuart Knopsider.

## Events

Symphony Week activities this year are varied and interesting: Livonia Mall Concerts were performed during the day, Saturday, May 14; Hansel and Gretel concert opera performed by the Piccolo Opera Company, Sunday, May 15 at Bentley; a Symphony Ball and Buffet at Idyl Wyld 7:30-12:30 Friday, May 20 and "An Afternoon With The Arts", Sunday afternoon at Franklin High School including an Appreciation Concert and an extensive exhibit of Livonia artists' work.

We're ready to play ball!

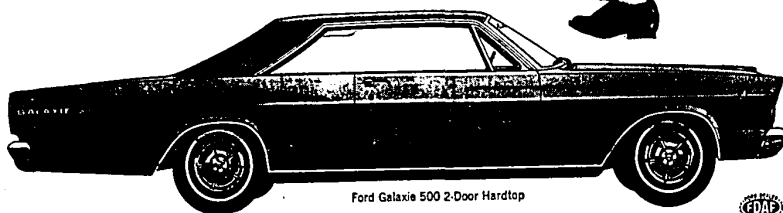
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