

Olympics show history

By BRIAN O'CONNOR

For the young artist one of the most difficult aspects of performing or presenting work is to receive public exposure or recognition.

The International Arts Olympics plans to serve that purpose. In planning for nearly one year, preliminaries for the Olympics are scheduled to start in January.

Wayne Larsen, president of the Olympics, was in Detroit recently to conduct the Detroit Concert Band and promote the competition.

As the name suggests, the Olympics will be organized in the same manner as the athletic Olympic events, starting with competition on the local level and working up to televised international finals.

The International Arts Olympics is forming a board of artists and an advisory board. The competition will be similar to amateur events but continue to national and international levels and include professional artists.

Larsen mentioned that the Olympics in Ancient Greece were originally devoted only to the arts. Athletics were added later.

"We've gone back 2,000 years and revived the original Olympics idea," Larsen said.

The competition will begin at local levels where participants will be placed in categories according to their educational level or profes-



WAYNE LARSEN

sional standing. There will be 24 subdivisions covering all areas of art.

Those who place first in a category will go on to district competition, then state, one of the four national regionals and then the international competition. Thirty-six foreign countries will be represented.

Arrangements have been made to televise both the national and international run-offs. Local and state contests may be televised, but these arrangements are not final.

One-way the Art Olympics differs from the sporting events is

that cash scholarships will be awarded to winners. Scholarships will be in the amount of \$12,000 and \$25,000 on the international level. Individual artists may determine use of the scholarships to their benefit.

Those serving on the advisory board of the competition include Arthur Fiedler, Meredith Willson, Robert Russell Bennett, Rudolf Nureyev, Rudolph Bing and Anthony Antonious.

Larsen hopes that the televised portions of the Arts Olympics will aid those artists who do not finish first in the competition.

"If they don't come in first, somebody out there might become aware of them. It's very good exposure for anybody who's in it," Larsen said.

The fact that most areas of the arts will be included in the Olympics may also mean greater exposure for arts in general. Instead of individual areas vying for publicity they can all work together.

Larsen hopes that the competition will interest people not involved in the arts.

"Competition generates interest," he said. "If something is so successful for sports, there's no reason it can't be applied to the arts, and the arts deserve it. We hope it will cultivate a lot of new art lovers."

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Down to earth

Tease the eye in your garden

In the last issue of Down To Earth the construction of a wild flower garden was discussed. On your property the dedication of an area for wild flowers and bird attractors changes the pace from a well kept lawn area.

As you plan and replan your private garden area have as many "personality spots" as you can develop in good taste. In other words have a reason for walking around the perimeter of your garden. By using peninsulas you'll have areas that tease the eye to explore.

If you can look out a central window of your home and see the total garden "in one full sweep" you are missing the boat as far as developing personality in the total design.

Following the discussion about wild flower gardens you may wish to develop a good perimeter planting. Avoid Norway, silver or red maples due to their shallow roots. The roots of an oak are deep and lend themselves to an under planting.

YOU MAY WISH to have some azaleas and rhododendrons as underplantings. Then within the semi-enclosed area have a wood chip path with wild flowers

in groupings to give continued interest. Don't forget to have a collection of ferns.

Some place in the total wild flower garden pattern be sure to have some type of seating arrangement, appropriate in design for the wildflower setting.

An idea would be to have two logs about 12 inches high with a split length of a long log attached to form a bench. I have also seen a grouping of log cuts for conversation.

A very important selection of furnishings for your wildflower garden would be at least one bird feeder and one or more bird houses to encourage a 12-month show from the bird population.

THE AMERICAN Horticultural Society reports that since 1937 the town of Ridgewood, N.J. has had trouble with tree roots getting into sewer lines. They have successfully handled the situation by distributing quarter-inch crystals of copper sulphate which they give to home owners in quart size containers.

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By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

bend to the soil pipe). This treatment is given twice a year. It was discontinued for one year and the cost of maintaining sewer lines rose 40 per cent. So the city fathers returned to this method of handling roots in their sewer lines.

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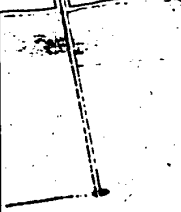
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Choral group auditioning

Auditions to sing with the Madrigal Club of Detroit, George T. Still, Director, will be held at 7 p.m., Sept. 2, in the rehearsal room at Calvary Lutheran Church, 28001 Evergreen (south of 12 Mile Rd.), Southfield.

Regular Monday night rehearsals will begin Sept. 8 at 7:45 p.m. for two December concerts which will feature works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Dello Joio, Mahler and Poulenc as well as traditional Christmas music.

There are openings for all voices in this women's chorus. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and able to sightread. In addition, they should bring a prepared piece they are familiar with, such as an aria, hymn, or folk song. An accompanist will be provided.

If interested, please contact Mrs. Sue McCallum, 24197 Twin Valley Court, Farmington or Mrs. Beatrice Hart, 18501 Huntington Rd., Detroit.

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