

Oakway revs up for 4th season

Oakwood Symphony Orchestra enters its fourth season with the greatest depth of playing talent it has ever had. On top of that, Musical Director Francesco DiBlasi has lined up soloists and special offerings for each of Oakway's five remaining season concerts.

"We have 95 members now — complete. It's the most we've ever had. And for the first time, we have a waiting list for people to get in," said DiBlasi, who has led the orchestra since it was founded.

CONCERTS ARE SCHEDULED in Birmingham, Farmington, Southfield and Livonia — the cities where the broad-based orchestra gets the greatest part of its audience and membership.

Here is a rundown of the entire season:

• Sunday, Oct. 31 at 4 p.m. in Seaholm High School, Cranbrook at Lincoln, Birmingham. With Ani Kavafian as violinist and sister Ida Kavafian as violist, the group will perform Mozart's "Sinfonia Concertante," a kind of double concerto.

THE KAVAFIANS will get a technical workout as violinists in "Navarra," by the late 19th-century violinist Sarasate. "It's difficult and challenging as anything by Paganini, with double-stops, triple stops, harmonics and pizzicato," said DiBlasi, who transcribed the original piano accompaniment for orchestra.

The orchestra will be heard in Khachaturian's "Gayane Ballet" music, including the popular "Sabre Dance," and in Wagner's prelude to "Der Meistersinger," featuring four costumed herald trumpeters.

• Sunday, Dec. 5, at 4 p.m. in Mercy High, 11 Mile and Middle Belt, Farmington Hills. With Michael Bistrzycki, whom DiBlasi credits with bringing the case Tech Symphony to national prominence, as guest conductor, the first half of the program will feature Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Oboes and the final movement of Brahms' majestic Symphony No. 1.

DiBlasi will conduct the second half, featuring Bach's Concerto for Four Flutes. Members of the Farmington Musicale will be soloists for both concerts.

The orchestra will be challenged with Mussorgsky's monumental "Pictures at an Exhibition." Said DiBlasi: "We have a contrabassoon ordered for that — it's a big part."

• Saturday, Jan. 22, at 8 p.m. in Madonna College, Schoolcraft west of Levan, Livonia. The Opera Organization (TOO), a new company formed and led by Richard Conrad, will be featured in "A Night in Vienna," a series of songs and costumed dances in a Viennese setting. "I just got word from the costume designer they're going all out for this one," said DiBlasi. The first half of the program will be Tchaikovsky's majestic and popular Symphony No. 4.

• Saturday, March 19, at 8 p.m. in Clarenceville High School, Middle Belt south of Eight Mile, Livonia. After three years of scheduling work, DiBlasi has arranged to bring in Edward Druzinsky, one of the world's most celebrated harpists. Druzinsky will be



FRANCESCO DIBLASI

heard with the orchestra in Mozart's Concerto for Harp and Flute and Ravel's Introduction and Allegro.

DRUZINSKY has recorded the Ravel work for RCA. Druzinsky is with the Chicago Symphony and has made several European tours with the New York Philharmonic.

• Sunday, April 24, at 4 p.m. in Southfield-Lathrup High, 12 Mile east of Evergreen, Southfield. Pianist Dady Mehta, Eastern Michigan University professor and cousin of internationally known conductor Zubin Mehta, will be soloist.

"Burlaque," one of Richard Strauss's early works, will challenge both pianist and orchestra. "If you can conduct that, you can conduct anything; it's very, very touchy," said DiBlasi.


OAKWAY WILL GIVE a premier performance of a piano concerto by Wallace Berry, a University of Michigan faculty member. "I'm quite excited about that," said DiBlasi. "It's a very well written — I've been studying the score about two months. It has a lot of odd meters. Oakway's ticket policy is different from most orchestras. One can buy a package of six general admission tickets for \$21 and attend all the season's concerts or use all six on one concert or in any combination.

Special tickets (students, senior citizens) are \$9 for the season. Single tickets are \$4 for general admission and \$2 for special admission. Tickets may be ordered by sending a check payable to Oakway Symphony Society, Box 171, Farmington, MI, 48024. Or they may be purchased at Hudson's (Oakland, Northland and Westland), Hammell Music in Livonia, Royal Music in Royal Oak, and Madonna College in Livonia.

Cepnik-McCain

Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Cepnik of Farmington Hills, announce the engagement of their daughter, Gail Margaret, to Timothy McCain of Jackson.

The bride-elect, a graduate of North Farmington High School, and her fiance are both graduates of University of Michigan and are now attending Memphis State University, where they are masters degree candidates in computer science. A wedding is planned for Jan. 29 in First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.



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Committee seeks help for safe Devil's Night

With the Halloween season drawing near, the Citizens Committee on Anti-Devil's Night has been re-activated spreading the word through the schools to help keep this coming week a destructive-free period.

The committee was formed in 1973 by the Farmington Area PTA Council stemming from a suggestion by elementary school principal J. A. Langan.

"The committee is in no way trying to do away with Halloween," said John Kiran, a co-chairperson of the committee.

"We are active in trying to do away with Devil's Night. This activity is unbiased in all other cities and towns across the country."

"How it got started no one seems to know, but it has mushroomed into youths thinking that this was an annual event to vandalize and disrupt people and public properties."

Ms. Kiran's co-chairperson for the season is Barb Hochman. Together they ask parents to help make this year damage-free for neighborhoods and school properties.

They point to school destruction, which cost local taxpayers \$35,000 for vandalism in the 1975-76 term.

"But since the committee was formed the vandalism and mischief making have been minimized, thanks to parents and young people alike," Ms. Kiran said.

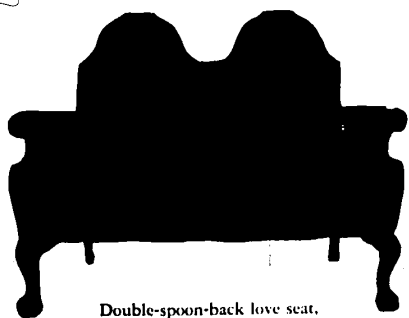
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