

# Austin-Moro joins symphony

The Detroit-based Austin-Moro Big Band guests with the Warren Symphony Orchestra for its "New East" Cabaret Pops Concert on Jan. 28.

The Sunday evening music program will be played at Hillcrest Country Club in Mt. Clemens starting at 7:30 p.m.

The program features in the first third the orchestra performing popular and light classical selections conducted by David Daniels. Following the intermission the Austin-Moro Band plays a jazz set.

After the last intermission both groups join together for a symphonic-jazz piece by Jeff Steinberg entitled "A New Sound of Freedom." The composer will conduct.

DETROIT VOCALIST Ursula Walker, in an example of musical versatility, will sing the "Haranera" from Carmen with the symphony and jazz selections with the Austin-Moro Band.

Composer-musician Jeff Steinberg comes originally from Bethesda, Md., and has been a Detroit resident since 1972. His musical education includes four years at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, two years on the road as arranger-player with Buddy DeFranco and Billy Maxted, and various engagements as pianist-conductor.

Since he arrived in the Detroit area, he has been involved mostly with the Road Company and Jack Brokensha, providing music and arrangements for radio and TV commercials. His recording credits include original music and backgrounds for Maynard Ferguson, Leslie Uggans, Marilyn McCoo and

Billy Davis, and Larry Santos, as well as contributing to the Count Basie library for the last two years.

"A New Sound of Freedom" was originally commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts. It was first performed by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Austin-Moro Band in 1976. This will be the second performance.

Following the concert, a combo from the Austin-Moro Band will play music for dancing. Free snacks will be provided at the cabaret tables.

ADMISSION IS priced for tickets in advance and at the box office. A table seating for 10 is available. For those who wish to eat at the club, a buffet dinner will be served 9-3:30 p.m. and can be reserved in advance.

# Esser returns to Raven for solo



PHIL MARCUS ESSER

A little more than 10 years ago, Phil Marcus Esser got off a bus in Detroit, fresh out of the Air Force, did a guest set at the Retort coffee house, and was hired.

The late '60s, a golden age for folk in Detroit, was an era ready for Esser's talents and he soon became one of the most respected and popular performers around.

He appeared regularly at the Retort, the Chessmate, the Raven Gallery, and was a favorite at the Living End where he appeared with Jon Mitchell, Gordon Lightfoot, the Irish Rovers, Odette, and in concert with Judy Collins.

And now the Raven Gallery again will feature Esser on stage in a solo engagement from Wednesday, Jan. 24, to Sunday, Feb. 4.

In 1973, Esser earned the title of Mr. Detroit Dinner Theater. His production of "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and

Living in Paris" at Mercy College started it all.

It was a mini miracle in local show business. Esser and the cast, Charlie Latimer, Barbara Bredius and Mary Ann Paquette, won acclaim from every quarter.

After co-authoring and directing "Personals," a musical that he appeared in for one year and four months, Phil appeared in "Scorpio/Scorpio," a one-man tour de force. The year 1977 was spent singing and dancing as Michael in "I Do I Don't" and then he finished the year at the True Grist Dinner Theater in Homer as El Gallo in "The Fantastics."

In 1978 Phil reunited with Charlie Latimer, Barbara Bredius and Mary Ann Paquette at Vittoria's Dinner Theater in new productions of "Jacques Brel" and "Personals," which recently closed after almost a year's run.

# Supper goes with exhibition

Candlelight suppers in the romantic continental cafe setting of the Detroit Institute of Arts' Kresge Court will complement the museum's record-breaking exhibition, "The Second Empire: Art in France Under Napoleon III."

Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 24, and continuing Wednesday evenings for the three-month run of the show, suppers of Quiche Lorraine, spinach-mushroom-watercress salad, French bread, white wine, chocolate mousse and beverage will be available, by reservation only, at \$15 per person.

Reservations include dining at either 6 or 7 p.m., immediate entry to "The Second Empire," and a personal audio tour.

Also, by advance reservation only, the public is invited to see the exhibition with no-wait admission and the audio tour, at \$4 per person on all Wednesday exhibition evenings.

LARGEST AMONG all exhibitions in the almost-hundred-year history of the museum, "The Second Empire" contains 362 objects—furnishings, paintings, jewels, antique photographs and sculpture. Included are the crown of Empress Eugenie, encrusted with gold, silver, diamonds and emeralds; the bejeweled cradle of the Prince Imperial; and works of painters Ingres, Delacroix, Carol, Courbet, Monet, Manet, Degas and Renoir.

Reflecting the glittering reign of Napoleon III, "The Second Empire" is the largest exhibition of French art ever presented in the United States, with most of the objects never before shown outside France.

In addition to the candlelight suppers, other exhibition-related attractions offered will be free, continuous 20-minute multi-screen sound and slide shows which summarize the Second Empire period, produced by IBM France and IBM Europe.

# Auditions open for 'Annie'

If you are a young girl age 7-14 and four feet eight inches (or under) and want to be in show business, there's a chance for you to audition for the National Company of "Annie."

On Tuesday, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., the company, now playing at the Fisher Theatre, will hold auditions for the roles of orphans in the show.

Cast replacements are needed when the company moves to Chicago. Some of the young actresses currently in the show are growing out of the roles.

Those auditioning must sing and dance well and bring resumes, photos, sheet music and dance clothes with them. An accompanist will be provided by the show.

They will be admitted into the theater at 9 a.m. and the auditions will begin at 10 a.m. All participants must be registered by 1 p.m. This will be the only audition call during the run of "Annie" at the Fisher.

# Show views women's role

Stevie Rivers, actress, singer and choreographer, will explore the musical theater's treatment of women and their feelings in a one-woman show Sunday at Oakland University near Rochester.

"Hats Off to Women" is slated for 3 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of Varner Hall. Tickets are priced for students and senior citizens and for general admission.

Stevie Rivers is now working as choreographer for the Meadow Brook Estate, the jazz and show ensemble at Oakland University. Previous experience includes being guest lecturer and choreographer for 17 colleges and universities, guest at the Fred Waring Workshop, working in television musicals, and acting as guest soloist in the Brahms Requiem.

Ms. Rivers is a graduate of Indiana University where she toured for the USO with the Singing Hoosiers, performed at the Ballet Company there and choreographed two becoming shows for Bob Hope.

For ticket information, call 377-2000.

**COMERST DINNER THEATRE**  
Alfred's presents  
**OWL and the PUSYCAT**  
starting  
JIMMY LAUNCE  
co-starring  
JAYE COOPER  
Reservations  
**643-8865**  
Performances  
Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday  
7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Dinner Theatre**  
Boisford Inn  
presents  
NEIL SIMON'S  
**THE ODD COUPLE**  
EDGAR A. GUEST III  
+ KENT HARTWIG  
Only \$15.95  
WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY  
7:30-9:30 p.m.  
474-4800

Holiday Entertainment from  
**SHOWCASE CINEMAS**  
2400 SOUTH TELEGRAPH RD.  
PONTIAC TELEPHONE 332-0241

**BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY - FIRST SHOW ONLY \$1.50**

**Oliver's Story** (PG)  
**Clint Eastwood WILL TURN YOU 'EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE'** (PG)  
**Clint Eastwood WILL TURN YOU 'EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE'** (PG)  
**the Lord of the Rings** (PG)  
**Invasion of the Body Snatchers** (PG)

Entertainment is the perfect gift. Gift certificates are always available at our box office.

CLEAN LEATHER upholstery with saddle soap. Can be purchased at most shoe repair shops. Follow directions and enjoy a beautiful, soft finish. Enjoy too the results you get from an Observer & Eccentric Classified Ad.

Holiday Entertainment from  
**SHOWCASE CINEMAS**  
35100 VAN DYKE RD. AT 15 MI.  
STERLING HTS. PHONE 979-3160

**BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY - FIRST SHOW ONLY \$1.50**

**Moment by Moment** (PG)  
**Invasion of the Body Snatchers** (PG)  
**Oliver's Story** (PG)  
**CALIFORNIA SUITE** (PG)  
**Clint Eastwood WILL TURN YOU 'EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE'** (PG)  
**the Lord of the Rings** (PG)

Entertainment is the perfect gift. Gift certificates are always available at our box office.

**SUBURBAN THEATRES INC.**

Clint Eastwood  
**"EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE"** (PG)  
Ryan O'Neil Candice Bergen  
**"OLIVER'S STORY"** (PG)  
Dolby Sound  
**"THE INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS"** (PG)  
**"LORD OF THE RINGS"** (PG)  
Anna Katrina  
**"BREAD & CHOCOLATE"** (PG)  
Wed. Mat. 1 show 1 p.m.  
All Seats \$1.50.  
Hollywood Sneak Preview Fri. Jan. 19th  
Special Family Matinee Sat. & Sun.

**"GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND"** (PG)  
Two Complete Shows 1:00 & 2:40  
Doors open at 12:45 - All Seats \$1.50

**"FORCE 10 FROM NAVARONE"** (PG)  
National Lampoon's  
**"ANIMAL HOUSE"** (R)  
**"BREAD & CHOCOLATE"** (PG)  
Family Matinee Sat. & Sun.  
**"GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND"** (PG)

Ryan O'Neil Candice Bergen  
**"OLIVER'S STORY"** (PG)

Clint Eastwood  
**"EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE"** (PG)  
Matinees Wed., Sat., & Sun.

Donald Sutherland Leonard Nimoy  
**"INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS"**  
**"ICE CASTLES"**  
Ryan O'Neil Candice Bergen  
**"OLIVER'S STORY"** (PG)  
Family Matinee Sat. & Sun.  
**"GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND"** (G)

Special kid Mat. Sat. & Sun.  
Open 1:00 p.m. All Seats \$1.50  
**"GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND"** (G)  
One Show only 1:25 p.m.

Hurry Last Day!  
**"KING OF THE GYPSIES"** (R)  
Starting Fri. Jan. 19th  
**"ICE CASTLES"** (PG)  
Mat. Wed. 1 show 1 p.m.

In Dolby Sound  
John Travolta Lily Tomlin  
**"MOMENT BY MOMENT"** (R)  
In Dolby Sound  
**"WATERSHIP DOWN"** (PG)

**THE BIRMINGHAM THEATRE**

# Subscribe NOW!!

We'll Give You... One Show ABSOLUTELY FREE  
The Best Seats in Town and Save You the Bother of Waiting in Long Lines at the Box Office

AN ENTERTAINMENT BONANZA IN YOUR BACKYARD!

**Hold Me!** A madcap hilarious romp by the incomparable Jules Feiffer  
March 5-17

**VERONICA'S ROOM** A spine-tingling thriller from the master of suspense, Ira Levin  
April 9-21

**HOOTERS** A sensual titillating comedy of seduction by Ted Tally  
May 7-19

**Ladyhouse Blues** A celebration of a loving family unit by Kevin O'Morrison  
June 4-16

Each play will feature the hottest names in show business. Actors and Actresses from television, stage and motion pictures that will deliver memorable performances you will long cherish.

PLUS... We'll park your car. We'll make your dinner reservations. We'll exchange your tickets. We'll give you the most exciting, professional theatre in Michigan.

Seating Plan Subscription Price											
SERIES-A MONDAY 8 P.M.	1	24.00	SERIES-C WEDNESDAY 8 P.M.	1	30.00	SERIES-E THURSDAY 8 P.M.	1	30.00	SERIES-G SATURDAY 7 P.M.	1	36.00
	2	21.00		2	27.00		2	27.00		2	33.00
SERIES-B TUESDAY 8 P.M.	1	30.00	SERIES-D WEDNESDAY MATINEE 1 P.M.	1	19.52	SERIES-F FRIDAY 8 P.M.	1	36.00	SERIES-H SATURDAY 10:30 P.M.	1	36.00
	2	27.00		2	18.52		2	33.00		2	33.00

Subscription tickets are not refundable - No substitutions - Access subject to availability

FOR MAXIMUM CONVENIENCE - INSTANT PHONE SUBSCRIPTION Simply call 644-3533 and order your season subscription on Master Charge or Visa.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE THE FOLLOWING:  
 I would like my season subscription(s) during the first week of the performance: March 5-10, April 9-14, May 7-12, June 4-9.  
 I would like my season subscription(s) during the second week of the performance: March 12-17, April 16-21, May 14-19, June 11-16.

SERIES \_\_\_\_\_ SEATING PLAN \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enclosed please find my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for subscription(s).  
 Charge to my Master Charge  Visa  Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Or come to the Birmingham Theatre Box Office.

Clip and send to the Birmingham Theatre  
211 S. Woodward • Birmingham, MI. 48011

**ABBIE 1-2-3-4**  
Avenue from Heaven Hall on 14 Mile at 175  
588-0880

**FARMLINE**  
Avenue from Heaven Hall on 14 Mile at 175  
567-7200

**MATHE 1-2-3**  
14100 Birmingham-French  
855-8080

**NORTHLAND-1 & 2**  
O.L. Hudson Drive • Northland Center  
555-3306

**OLD ORCHARD 1-2-3**  
Old Orchard Lake Rd. N. of 12 Mile  
553-2310

**TERRACE 1 & 2**  
3000 Plymouth Rd. near Midfield  
977-1717 427-1200

**TOWNE 1 & 2**  
Greenfield Road N. of  
958-8200