

Weisberg concert premieres 'Havdalah'

By Shirlee Iden
staff writer

The Peter and Clara Weisberg Concert, described as a pageant of music, joy and celebration, will be featured at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield at 8 p.m. on May 31.

"Havdalah," an original work by celebrated composer Morton Gold, will have its first orchestra performance here, Cantor Chaim Najman said.

The concert also celebrates the 120th anniversary of Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

Offered under the auspices of the Cultural Commission of the synagogue, the concert is free of charge. Ticket forms have already been mailed to Shaarey Zedek members. A limited number are available to the public by written request.

Gold, who orchestrated the original score as a special commission in honor of the 90th birthday of Peter Weisberg, Southfield resident and longtime Shaarey Zedek member, will come to Southfield for rehearsals the week preceding the performance.

Composer of many works for chorus and orchestra, Gold will conduct his work before the Southfield audience on May 31.

"Havdalah" has involved the talents of many people: rabbi, cantor, synagogue chorus members and the professional musical talent of the community.

Linda Zalla, area artist and a

Shaarey Zedek member, designed the special logo which depicts the Havdalah ceremony which marks the ends of the Sabbath each week.

THE LOGO uses both traditional and contemporary aspects of the Havdalah service.

"I utilized the symbolism of the braided candle and the spice box on each side of a contemporary geometric form, with the Hebrew calligraphy of the word 'Havdalah' designed through the opening of the geometric planes," Mrs. Zalla said. A special chorus consisting of members of Shaarey Zedek's professional choir and volunteers from the community has been organized for this event.

They will be joined by an orchestra comprised of Detroit Symphony musicians and members of the Shaarey Zedek Youth Choir, and a group of young dancers under the direction of Harriet Berg.

Cantor Najman will be the featured soloist, and Rabbi Irwin Groner will provide the narration.

Dr. and Mrs. Jerome Kaufman, co-chairmen of the concert, are directing a large force of volunteers working on the gala event.



Morton Gold

"Havdalah has great emotional appeal and contains many melodious, folk-like passages reminiscent of modern Israeli and Hasidic music," Najman said. He added that some 150 local people are participating in the various facets of this production.

The general public may request the free tickets by writing: Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 27375 Bell Road, Southfield 48034.



Peter Weisberg
90th birthday gala

Sweet talk

Sweet talk between Dave McCabe and his on-stage wife Cynthia Doehler is carried on in a scene from "How the Other Half Loves," which continues through May 16 in Farmington Players barn theater. The Alan Ackbourn comedy, which closes Farmington Players 1980-81 season, has received favorable reviews. Tickets are \$3 and \$4 and must be reserved in advance by calling the box office, 477-1066.

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