



DANCE CONSORT -- From left are: Barbara Kastenhour on the viola da gamba; Joseph Katz, krumphorn; Patricia Thornton, alto recorder; Norman Suskind, great bass recorder; and Director Mary Johnson, tenor recorder.

Renaissance Show Ready For Performance

By BETTY MASSON

How do you put together a program of Renaissance dance and music?

And why? These were questions answered by Mrs. Mary Johnson, music director of "A Program of Renaissance Dance and Music," being presented by the Festival Dancers of the Jewish Community Centre.

Their next performance will be in Marygrove College at 7:30 and 9 p.m., Saturday, March 14. The event will take place in the Madame Cadillac ballroom.

TO ANSWER the second question first, according to Mrs. Johnson, there is a tremendous interest in the Renaissance period today. "This was a time of thinking, of soul-searching and of great changes. I believe people are doing more thinking today," said Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson lives in Franklin Village, in a lovely and

unusual home filled with antiques and a bewildering variety of musical instruments. She is a housewife, mother of three and Girl Scout troop services director, who has also found time to research the music and lead the musicians involved in the program. She also teaches adults and children to play the recorder, which she says is actually a difficult instrument to play well.

She explained that the program grew out of an exhibition of Renaissance dance put to-

gether by Harriet Berg and Mrs. Johnson for a group of students at Oakland Community College. Mrs. Berg teaches dancing in Detroit.

MRS. JOHNSON and Mrs. Berg then got together to work out a program, working from a 16th century dancing manual, "Orchesography" by Thoinot Arbeau.

From this, they came up with a show which includes music, dancing, drama, comedy and beautiful costumes,

designed by Judy Wiltshire of Birmingham.

Ray Britten, as the featured soloist, will also sing ballads of the period.

The music is performed by six musicians with six different sizes of recorders. The musicians also will play a viola da gamba, a distant and larger relative of a violin; a krumphorn, a recorder-type instrument with a crook in the end; and a bowed psaltery, a triangular-shaped instrument played with a bow -- the trick

is to hit the strings between metal pegs. All produce sounds seldom heard in a concert.

The group gave its first performance last fall at the Detroit Institute of Arts. So popular was the performance, it has been listed as a touring attraction for the Michigan State College for the Arts and is available for day or evening performances.

Bookings may be made by calling the business manager, Sheila Collins, at 864-5740.

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5th Dimension Group Starred

Braving the bad luck superstition, the University of Detroit's Town and Gown Series has chosen Friday, March 13, as the date for its 5th Dimension concert.

The show to be held at 8:30 p.m. in the U of D. Memorial Building, will be the first Town and Gown performance staged in the round. The 5th Dimension, which is constantly on the move with their choreography, finds theater-in-the-round ideal for flexibility.

The 5th Dimension's rapid rise to success began with their hit recording of the Jimmy Webb song, "Up, Up and Away." Since then they have had hit after hit. Their current song release, "Declaration," is a moving, sensitive interpretation of our Declaration of Independence.

FIVE QUITE DIFFERENT individual dimensions make up the group, which is comprised of three men and two women.

Ron Townson was once an operatic tenor and sang with Nat "King" Cole's Merry Young Souls. Billy Davis studied singing from the age of seven, but thought about returning to his sheet metal work in St. Louis until he found success and steady work with the Fifth Dimension.

Lamonte McLemore was a first baseman for a Los Ange-

les Dodgers farm club, but dropped out of baseball in 1960 to become a fashion photographer. A drummer since his high school days, he soon had a professional jazz-rock combo going as well. McLemore met Marilyn McCoo while he was photographing the 1962 Miss Bronze California Pageant. Marilyn was winner of the talent competition, and became a member of the group.

FLORENCE LaRue was working her way through California State when she entered and won the same event the following year and was added to the other four dimensions. Tickets at \$5.50, \$4.50 and \$3.50 are available at J.L. Hudson and Grinnell Stores and at the University of Detroit Performing Arts Box Office, located in the student union.

Organists Meet

Improvising and composition for the organ will be the theme of the March 18 meeting of the Hammond Organ Society of the Livonia Mall. The group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the community club room at the mall. For information about the organization, contact Grinnell's.

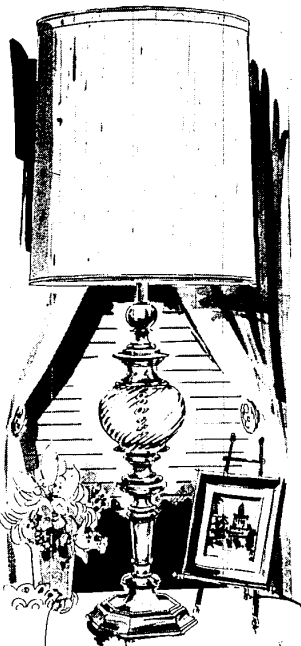
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