

7th Art in the Park set for next month

Common Ground's seventh annual Art in the Park will feature the work of 138 artists in downtown Birmingham's Shain Park on Sept. 19-20. Fair hours will be 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

Leading artists from Michigan and throughout the country will exhibit a variety of art prints, sculpture, jewelry, photography, weaving, ceramics, stained glass, blown glass and soft sculptures. Attractions will include a children's art area, ethnic food booths and free entertainment on both days.

Participating jurors serving on this year's jury were Richard Kozlow, nationally known painter and teacher, Russell Keeter, painter and professor at the Center for Creative Studies, and Carol Hooberman, owner of Hooberman Art Gallery in Birmingham.

Sponsored by Common Ground's Art in the Park committee, the event annually draws some 20,000 visitors to Birmingham's Shain Park, one block south of Maple and two blocks west of Woodward.

Proceeds benefit Common Ground, a 24-hour youth and family crisis center located in Birmingham. Services include crisis counseling, legal consultation, medical care and information and referral network and alternative programs. For information or services, call 645-9676.

Musician discusses reasons for leaving

It isn't quite like being a baseball player, but symphony musicians do on occasion switch to other orchestras for a better contract and for other reasons.

A symphony musician isn't traded or bought out on the basis of his record like a ballplayer. It's tougher than that. If we musicians desire to go elsewhere we have to take an audition, i.e., put our talent on the line for 15 minutes or so under abnormally stressful conditions.

These days one's background has little or nothing to do with success, and you either make it against 40 or 50 other contestants or you blow it.

One man among us who made it is Phillip Austin, Detroit Symphony Orchestra second bassoonist, who is moving over to the same position in Cleveland. Austin, who lives with his wife, Rhonda, in Pleasant Ridge, is a native Detroit who's pulling up a lot of roots to make this move. Born and raised in this area and a graduate of Wayne State University, he's well entrenched here both socially and musically. He has been in the symphony for nine years and is a well-respected member of the orchestra.

Obviously Austin, a serious man as



music stand
Ray Benner

well as a serious musician, had to have some strong personal reasons for the switch. For the time being at least, the move represents a financial loss to him. He will be leaving behind years of reputation as a private teacher and a busy extra schedule of chamber-music concerts. Other practical fiscal considerations are loss of pension fund accrued and a setback on his home mortgage due to higher interest rates. All of this more than offsets the few extra dollars he will earn with his new Cleveland contract.

TO AN ARTIST who has spent his lifetime working toward an ideal, the "other" reasons for leaving behind friends, family and connections are what were most intriguing to me.

He said, "Cleveland is one of the most prestigious symphony orchestras

in the world and has been in that class for at least 25 years now. The Cleveland cultural community has been consistently committed to that purpose and maintains an ongoing commitment to keep its orchestra that way.

"The world-class plateau to which Dorati has raised the Detroit Symphony is now extremely uncertain and without any optimism for the future. The cancellation of Detroit's East Coast tour with its Carnegie Hall concerts certainly dashed all hopes of artistic stability for what we have so recently accomplished."

He added, "Cleveland Orchestra continues to maintain its status quo of regular foreign tours and its yearly Carnegie Hall Series. That's the kind of place I want to be."

He also mentioned his admiration for the Cleveland concert hall. He said, "I

was frustrated that the Detroit Symphony did not return to its former home, Orchestra Hall, which I love."

VERY FEW PEOPLE realize how valuable is the second-chair player in the woodwind and brass sections. The first chair can't sound good without a good partner.

I said to Austin, "In this difficult supporting role you are one of the most consistent artists in the Detroit Symphony. Have people ever expressed their appreciation for your work?"

He said, "On rare occasions, yes. But you know that the world revolves around the principal players. The limelight is on them."

I asked, "Is that why someone like yourself has to make this kind of change so at least the new orchestra (Cleveland) is saying in effect, 'We need you?'"

His reply was that he indeed needed that. It was not only enhanced his reputation around the country among musicians but also made him feel more personally fulfilled as an artist.

Ray Benner is assistant principal bass with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

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Harvest moon to put on a show in September

The author is coordinator of the planetarium and observatory at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

September is the month of the harvest moon and the start of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.

Observing the planets becomes more difficult this month. Mars is visible, but it's a morning object. Jupiter and Saturn are very low in the southwest sky after sunset, but both will be lost in the sun's glare by the end of the month.

Mercury is always difficult to spot. That leaves Venus, which will be the bright "evening star" in the southwest all month.

Jupiter will be four degrees south (below) of the three-day-old crescent moon on the first of September. Venus will be five degrees south of the moon. All three objects will be located in the southwest sky.

Watch the motions of the moon and Venus, with respect to Jupiter, during the next week. On Sept. 6 the moon is at first quarter and Venus is now two degrees north (above) the bright star Spica, in Virgo. Can you still find Jupiter?

Mercury passes four degrees south of Saturn on Sept. 10 and three degrees south of Jupiter on the 13th. It will be very difficult to see Mercury, the closest planet to the sun. Mercury will pass

one-half degree south of Spica on the 20th, though the glare of twilight will interfere with observing.

The full moon on Sept. 16 is the harvest moon. Each month a full moon rises in the east as the sun sets in the west, and every succeeding night it rises about an hour later due to its orbit around the earth.

Resale shop sets fall hours

Farmington Community Center's resale shop, "The Second Edition" will resume fall hours, beginning Sept. 1. The resale shop is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with extra hours on Thursday afternoons from 3-4:30 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to noon.

The shop has bargains for all family members and is operated by volunteers of the center.

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