

Braggiotti And Banter

'Yankee Doodle' In Many Styles

By MARGARET MILLER
Superb piano music mixed with good-natured banter were the fare offered Northville Town Hall visitors Thursday.



MARIO BRAGGIOTTI was advised to "keep your hands on the keyboard, your eyes on the ladies and your tongue in cheek."

His renditions of the love-death music from Richard Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde" and especially George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" brought cheers from the audience of Town Hall women and Northville High School music students who filled the auditorium.

IN BETWEEN, he earned some laughs with reminiscences of his musical career and some musical spoofing, particularly in an arrangement of "Yankee Doodle" as it would have been played by Scarlatti on the harpsichord; Beethoven, who "leaves no doubt when a piece is finished"; Chopin with a Yankee Doodle nocturne; Debussy, Gershwin and today's Calypso musicians.

The pianist also improvised on a theme based on four notes called from the audience, B flat, C sharp, E and F, and played a song from the musical comedy he plans to audition for Broadway soon.

"It tells about our family life when I was a boy in Florence," Braggiotti said. "There were eight children in the family and we never had less than 18 at the table — and five or six dogs under the table."

HE ADDED that if the musical is produced, "hopefully it will come to Detroit."

In offering the Gershwin music, Braggiotti told his audience of his meeting with the great American composer in Paris.

"My partner, Jacques Fray, and I went to see him when he was working on 'An American in Paris,'" he recalled. "We told him we admired his music and wanted to meet him."

"He was very nice and invited us in to his workshop where he had taxi horns all over the piano. He had us keep the horns while he played the theme music he was composing, and may say that's the first and only time I've ever played a taxi horn with such a distinguished accompanist."

BRAGGIOTTI also told of working with Maurice Chevalier, who is "now making his seventh farewell tour."

"He told Jacques and me that we should keep our hands on the keyboard, our eyes on the ladies and our tongue in check," he said.

"That's good advice if you don't get mixed up."

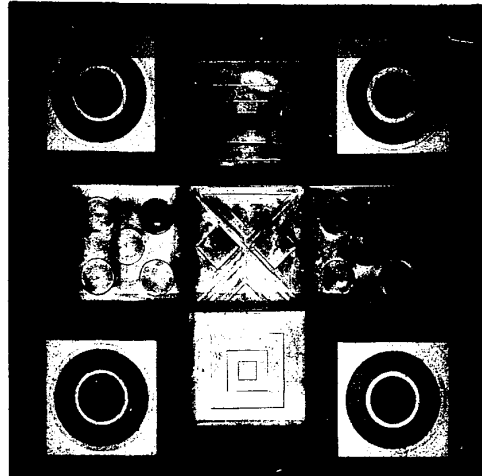
Answering questions at the luncheon, Braggiotti told the ladies he practices regularly with a silent keyboard while on tour.

"You have to practice an hour every day to keep in form and two hours a day to improve," he said.

ASKED ABOUT the music of today's youth, he commented:

"It serves its purpose — provides an outlet and gives the kids a chance to experiment. And some good music is coming out of the contemporary form — particularly the tunes of the Beatles and some of that from Brazil."

"We should not discourage youth from trying something new — if it's good it will stay and if it isn't it will be forgotten."



"PAINTED CONSTRUCTION With Aluminum" by Cranbrook Academy of Art artist-in-residence George Orman is a sample of the artist's work which will be exhibited in a one-man show in Cranbrook's Art Galleries April 15-May 17.

Leader Named For 6-Week European Tour
Robert Gregory, 1905 Hubbard, Livonia, has been appointed a group supervisor by the National Foreign Study Center, Princeton, N. J.

Gregory, who is drama director at Clarenceville High School, will be leading a group of students from his own school on a six-week tour of Europe this summer. His group will be studying English literature and contemporary Europe at the British Summer Study Center at Stratford-Upon-Avon, England.

The National Foreign Study Center arranges six-week summer study programs in Europe for Americans and Canadian high school students. During the program, students and teachers usually study either a modern language, civilization, art, history or culture for four weeks at a European university or college and

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Area Senators Back Tax Hike On Cigaretts

LANSING
Observant's four state senators, both Republicans and Democrats, lined up on the approval side of the four-cent pack tax increase on cigarettes which will go into effect next month. The boost will push the state tax to a total of 11 cents.

2 Housing Panels Set Next Week

Two conferences focusing on proposal for state-wide housing and building codes and government projects to implement large scale housing construction are scheduled for next week.

ON THURSDAY, March 19, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) will hold a conference at Cobo Hall in cooperation with the Greater Detroit Board of Commerce.

THE GOVERNOR'S commission has recommended repeal of the 1917 Michigan

'Halfway House' Nearer For Kids

The first "halfway house" for the large numbers of Wayne County is halfway to becoming reality, says Wayne County Supervisor Carl Pursell of Plymouth.

Proposed arrangements are for the county and the corporation formed by the Boulevard United Church of Christ to jointly sponsor the halfway house, with either able to drop

Supervisors Endorse DST

Wayne County's Board of Supervisors filled a vacancy by appointment, endorsed daily savings time, and approved some funding of the crash program in the Circuit and Recorder's Courts this month.

The supervisors also endorsed a request that the federal government turn over Marine Hospital in Detroit for use as a drug addicts rehabilitation center, as urged by the Narcotic Addiction Rehabilitation Coordinating Organization (NARCO).

Supervisor Carl Pursell (R-26th District) and the only other Republican on the county board were the only dissenters to a resolution adopted opposing appointment of Judge G. Harold Carswell to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The resolution was originated by Paul Silver of Detroit (D-District 11) and broadened on the floor to include all the Democratic supervisors as sponsors.

DETAILS OF OTHER ACTIONS include the appointment of Albert R. DeBiasi of Allen Park was appointed to the District 22 vacancy created by the resignation of Supervisor Robert L. Tripp. District 22 covers Lincoln Park, Southgate and half of Allen Park.

DeBiasi, 42, an attorney, was given a 19-6 vote of the board over Alexander Z. Petri, former state representative and Lincoln Park businessman. A third candidate, Southgate Councilman Gerald K. Laura, withdrew before the balloting. DeBiasi said he will seek to

the disciplinary atmosphere of the center each day, while in the halfway house the youths will have a chance to show how well they can handle only moderate discipline.

Plans are to transfer teenage boys whose homes are in Detroit from the Wayne County Child Development Center in the Northville Plymouth portion of Pursell's 26th supervisor district.

The boys presently work in Plymouth and Northville and will be able to work in their native city. They will be expected to pay \$25 to \$35 a month rent to stay at the halfway house.

Pursell simply took the meeting of his Wayne County Child Development Center subcommittee to the 30-year-old house Wednesday of this week "to get them motivated."

Once there he met Zak's "budget" objections by pointing out that the necessary staff could be transferred from duties at the development center.

Pursell was only recently appointed chairman of the development center subcommittee, but he has long been prodding the county board to take action on the facility.

The center handles 367 children aged eight to 19 who are neither mentally retarded nor criminally delinquent, but who have become county wards because of their difficulties with society.

Such a facility will allow for a "period of adjustment," they assert. Unlike having to return to

on 60 days notice, Pursell said.

The corporation formed by the church group bought the house recently for \$20,000, partially with funds solicited among various civic and church groups.

A private foundation gave \$5,000. The Detroit Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ gave \$500.

retain the seat in the Aug. 4 primary election.

A RESOLUTION urging the state Legislature to take steps to put Michigan on daylight saving time was adopted unanimously.

The resolution would either put the question on the upcoming election ballot or repeal the present eastern standard time statute.

The resolution was sponsored by Supervisor Edmund Bizak (D-District 24), whose district includes part of Westland.

THE BOARD appropriated \$900 to help fund the current six-month "crash program" instituted to reduce the backlog of criminal cases in Circuit Court and Detroit Recorder's Court.

The board stipulated that none of the money be used for additional probation officers and called on the state to pay for the additional 70-odd probation officers needed to meet state standards.

Local Men Start Firm
Two Southfield and Farmington men have formed a marketing communications firm, MARCOM, Inc., to be located in the Cranbrook Centre office complex in Southfield. Principals are H. Rand Oslund, 29085 Lancaster, Southfield, and Robert Overfield, 32462 Sprucewood, Farmington.

The pair formerly were with Tom Thomas Organization, Detroit, and D. P. Brother & Co., advertising agency.

Library Tech Program Set At Oakland

A program for library technical assistants will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, April 3, at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus on 1-96 at Orchard Lake Road.

A talk will be given by Mrs. Ruth Braun, placement officer, Michigan Chapter of the Special Libraries Association and chief librarian for the Detroit News who will speak on "The Library Technician in the Special Library."

Mrs. Betty Dimitry, assistant professor of library technology at OCC, will present colored slides of Oakland Community College's library technician assistance training program.

Civile Boosters Meet March 30

The Athletic Booster Club will meet Monday, March 30, at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria at Clarenceville High School.

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