

Sunny days ahead predicted for symphony

By Judith Berne
staff writer

Rebounding from a near-fatal illness, the West Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra is preparing for another season.

Plans are for a full five-concert season plus two holiday performances of the "Nutcracker Suite" for 1982-83. The symphony performed its final two season concerts despite debts, the resignation of half its board including the orchestra founders, and the refusal of Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians to play without pay.

"We are in a much better financial position than a year ago," maintains Harold Patrick, WBSO board president. "Contributions from corporations gave

us a shot in the arm."

Corporate and individual donations helped the orchestra out from under a \$100,000 debt. Major contributions were from Gulf Oil Foundation and Quaker Chemical Co., Patrick reports.

The only bill still outstanding is owed the West Bloomfield School District for use of the high school auditorium, Patrick said. This includes fees from past years, for which the board apparently was not billed until recently.

TO MAKE that payment and ensure the upcoming season, the symphony board will seek help from West Bloomfield residents. A township-wide solicitation is expected by mail early this month.

Patrick hopes a good public response

plus a new tight-fisted financial policy will mean a lasting recovery.

Ticket prices have been restructured to cover the major costs of putting on the concerts, instead of relying on grants and donations to make up the difference. And costs will be less because the symphony no longer employs Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians in each section.

Prices will be raised to \$8 per concert or \$35 for the series. Last year, tickets cost \$7 and season ticket holders were offered an extra concert, Patrick reports.

There will be no extra concert this year. However season ticket holders may receive added benefits from dis-

count coupons from local merchants.

Senior citizen discounts will be discontinued, although student tickets will still be available at \$5 each.

"We found most of the senior citizens who attend can afford to pay the full price," Patrick said. "In fact, they were often the ones we were asking for donations."

CHAIRS VACATED by Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians who, unlike the rest of the orchestra, refused to waive their fees have been well-filled, maintains Patrick.

This is verified by Conductor Felix Resnick.

"We were fortunate in replacing

them with the best people outside the symphony (DSO)," Resnick said. "You can't fully replace them (the DSO members) in terms of their background, their experience. But musically I am not worried. I feel very positive about the future of the orchestra."

"I wouldn't shortchange either the audience or members of the orchestra," Resnick added.

Although the 75-member orchestra is basically "complete as it is now," auditions will be held July 19 and 20 from 4-7 p.m. in the band room at West Bloomfield High School. Interested musicians should call Patrick at 557-6611 for appointments.

FIVE NEWCOMERS have joined the symphony board, Patrick reports. They are Robert Duchin and Naomi Reiter, West Bloomfield; Henry and Susan Chevit, Orchard Lake; and Lillian Rosenberg, Birmingham.

The board welcomes new members. "There's room for a lot more," Patrick says.

The symphony is also looking for volunteers to man the symphony office on Maple Road near Orchard Lake Road. That was previously a paid position, for which funds are no longer available.

Season tickets for 1982-83 will be sold starting the end of July, according to Patrick.

Mayor appoints 18 board members

Farmington Hills Mayor Jack Burwell recently appointed 18 persons to city boards and commissions. William Jarrett was reappointed and Nimeh Abu Nassar appointed to the Building Appeals Board. Both terms expire in June 1985.

City Clerk Floyd Cairns was re-

appointed the Building Authority board through December 1983.

Rev. James McDonald was reappointed and Steven Goren appointed to the Commission on Aging. McDonald's term expires in June 1984. Gorn will serve through June 1985.

Reappointed to the Farmington Area

Arts Commission was Haroune Al-Jamidine. The term expires June 1985.

Both Dorothy Cox and Dennis Fitzgerald were reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Their terms expire June 1985.

Burwell's choices for the Committee to Increase Voter Participation were Catherine Jones, Jay Markham, Lawrence Irey and Brenda Kandt. All but Kandt are incumbents. The terms of Jones and Markham expire June 1985

while Irey and Kandt serve through June 1984.

Reappointed through June 1984 to the Historical Commission were Basil Flora and David Litogot.

Dave Drazin and Gilbert Seeley were reappointed to the Housing Commission. Drazin's term expires June 1984. Seeley will serve through June 1985.

Assistant City Manager William Costick will serve on the Industrial and Economic Development Commission.



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