

club circuit

SOUTH OAKLAND ALUMNAE Chapter of Sigma Kappa Sorority will be participating in a trollop sale through the week in conjunction with a national "Lifeline Campaign." Proceeds will finance a television show about the aging. The show will be on public television later in the year.

EPILEPSY SUPPORT PROGRAM, a self-help group, meets at 7:30 tonight in All Saints Lutheran Church, 8850-

Newburgh, corner of Joy, Livonia. The group hosts three technicians from Lafayette Clinic for the program. Guests are welcome.

LONGACRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA meets at 8 tonight in the school at 34850 Arundel. Speaker is Dr. James Hughes, professor at Oakland University. His topic is "Why in the World Don't People Know More About Where in the World?" The event is open to all interested

persons at no charge.

SINGLE-AIRES meet for a dance party at 9 p.m. Saturday in Red Cedar, 23055 Telegraph, Southfield. The event is open to singles 21-55 years. Admission is \$3 at the door. Cash bar.

SUNDAY NITE LIVE meet for a dance party at 8 p.m. Sunday in Jacks or Better, 1105 Middlebelt, Livonia. Singles over age 21 are welcome. Admission is \$3 at the door. Cash bar.

FARMINGTON AREA NATURALISTS meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25 in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile, east of Farmington Road. Wally Mansfield will lead a program called "Detroit Salt Mines." Meetings are open to all persons interested in nature. No charge.

LUPUS SUPPORT meets at 7:30

p.m. Monday, Oct. 25 in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile. The meeting is open to all persons interested in information on lupus.

THE GATHERING PLACE begins a series of four one-hour sessions called "Fitness for the Future." Each session begins at 11 a.m. Tuesdays beginning Oct. 26 in the senior adult facilities in Mercy Center, 11 Mile, east of Middlebelt.

The course is designed to assist older adults to accept and adjust to the changes that occur during the retirement years.

The series begins with a discussion on the aging process and is followed by a session on accident prevention and safety precautions. The third session is devoted to nutrition and the fourth is devoted to home emergency treatment. There is no charge, but participants are asked to register beforehand, in The Gathering Place. At 11:30 a.m. that same date, Louise McElroy, a member of West Bloomfield-Farmington area League of Women Voters, will speak. She will tell

about the voter guides published by the league. The guides contain factual matters about each candidate on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The Gathering Place combines its seventh anniversary celebration with a Halloween party when the 12:30 p.m. meal is served Thursday, Oct. 28. Door prizes, a treat table, punch and entertainment are on the agenda.

BETA SIGMA PHI meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26 in the Farmington home of Betty Vincent, 24150 Twin Valley, for a program called "The Great Escape."

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, Suburban West Area, sponsors a miniseminar along with its monthly dinner meeting Tuesday, Oct. 26 in Holiday Inn West, Ann Arbor.

Speaker for the evening is Bob Holland. His topic is "Everything You Want to Know About Data Base." Reservations are taken by Roger

Crawford, 769-8511, ext. 473. Membership inquiries are taken by Elaine Tuttle, 522-3598.

SOLO FLIGHT SINGLES meet for a Halloween costume party at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28 in Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, at 14 Mile, Birmingham.

Music for dancing will be furnished by "Big Bands Plus." Costumes are optional, but encouraged. Admission charge for guests is \$6 at the door.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES IN CHILD BIRTH EDUCATION begin a six-week series of classes 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning Oct. 28 in William Thyndale College, 37500 13 Mile.

The class prepares expectant parents both emotionally and physically for the birth of their child. Registration information is given by calling the association, 827-8750.

Young musician shows surprising maturity

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

Stories about child prodigies abound. After a while one tends to regard them with suspicion or, worse yet, indifference.

Thus, when the pending piano and harpsichord recital by 12-year-old Kirsten Agresta caught my attention, I figured this was probably just another youngster who would play a trifle above average — not necessarily a difficult feat.

But, I made the trip to Kirk in the Hills to see (and hear) for myself. And that turned out to be a revelation. Kirsten, born in 1970, has already achieved some recognition. She appeared on NBC in 1978 and was one of six finalists chosen to participate in a piano master class under Steven De Groote, himself a Van Cliburn award winner.

Her program last Sunday consisted of the French Suite No. 5 in G Major by Bach, the Pathétique Sonata by Beethoven, Impromptu in F Flat Major by Schubert, Scherzo in E minor by Mendelssohn, Fantasia Impromptu in C Sharp minor by Chopin and the Scherzo humoristique by Copland.

THERE ARE possibly others of that age who could learn to play the notes of some of these pieces, but Kirsten did much more. It isn't necessary to use her young age to shield her from criticism. Therefore, at the outset, let it be said that her performance wasn't flawless. There were several missed notes and some erratic rhythm when seasoned, celebrated performers couldn't get away with. However, these aspects will improve with time.

Much more remarkable was her treatment of the passages between the flaws. In the French Suite, played on the harpsichord, there was excellent phrasing, rarely encountered even

review

among more mature performers. The way she maintained the complicated voice integrity in the courante was most impressive. Some parts of the concluding glisse showed mature perception.

In the Beethoven Sonata, some of the difficult passages in the first and third movements were very well executed. The second movement, however, which is technically less demanding, suffered from some difficulties in the interpretation.

MOST OF the arpeggios in the Schubert Impromptu flowed smoothly and naturally. The Chopin selection, which features fast flying sixteenth notes in the right hand against triplets in the left, poses a challenge to many piano students who find themselves unable to reconcile and integrate the conflicting rhythms. But, Kirsten whizzed through these passages rather effortlessly, combining it with good expression and correct emphasis most of the time.

In the concluding Copland piece, the least known of the program selections, she demonstrated a keen perception of that contemporary style as well.

It's impossible to speculate on the future of any show of talent. Many young talents burn out as fast as their meteoric rise and only a few persist and eventually blossom.

There's also a large element of luck involved, for instance, it's not what you know, but "who" you know. All this considered, Kirsten Agresta seems to be on the right track and is currently in good hands. We are going to wish her a lot of luck and fulfillment with her impressive musical abilities.

Orchestra has superb balance

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

For regular concert goers, last week's Detroit Symphony Orchestra program at Ford Auditorium sounded familiar. It was partly because the compositions were familiar, but also because two well-performed last season, then, under the baton of Maestro Antal Dorati — "Also Sprach Zarathustra" by Richard Strauss and the complete "Firebird" ballet by Stravinsky.

The program opened with a lively performance of Beethoven's Leonore No. 3 Overture. The program originally called for a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 9. However, this was

changed because of the recording of the Strauss and Stravinsky works.

To hear these compositions so masterfully and superbly played is indeed an event worth repeating. However, the sacrifice of Mahler's symphony is a stiff penalty, especially since it was supposed to be one of the most impressive events of this season's programming and live performances of it are not easy to come by. Hopefully, Dorati will see fit to include it in one of his future seasons here.

THE STRAUSS composition is, of course, familiar as the theme for the movie, "2001," but the more subtle and profound aspects go beyond the recognizable opening. As in last season, this

review

performance featured a superbly balanced orchestral sound. However, there seemed to be a lack of detail in some of the more massive passages and this was also the case with the "Firebird."

The violin solo by concertmaster Gordon Staples was impressively articulate. Percussionist Robert Pangborn was highlighted in a literal sense when he had to climb a ladder to ring the bell for the midnight stroke.

One argument against performing the complete "Firebird" score is the apparent meaninglessness of some parts without the associated stage action. Granted, watching the ballet to the accompaniment of this magnificent music could be a very rewarding experience. However, with such a superb performance, not only would the ballet detract from the music, but conversely, such an inspiring performance would detract from the dancing.

Conceding that no perfect solution exists, I still find the performance of the complete score preferable to the suite. While the "Infernal Dance" is the one piece that tends to be associated with the entire composition, this doesn't make it any better or worse than some of the lesser known selections.

ON THE OTHER hand, a concert performance of the entire score of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" is impractical due to its sheer length. Stravinsky's composition doesn't suffer from this practical limitation. In this particular performance, I don't feel a single passage went to waste.

Last Sunday, Dorati conducted a special program of lighter material. The program included Copland's "The Down" from "Rodeo," The Grand Canyon Suite by Grofe, Dorati's own American Serenade and a symphonic picture based on themes from Gerbwin's "Porgy and Bess."

Under Dorati, even these lightweight works sounded profound. I am looking forward to his cellist concertos the upcoming program.

Assertiveness training offered in workshop

Assertiveness Training sessions will be conducted by Janet Folgenst 7-9 p.m. on four Wednesday evenings, Oct. 27 through Nov. 17, in St. John Provincial Seminary, Plymouth.

The workshop is open to anyone who wants to handle communications, conflict, anger, tender feelings and conversation more effectively.

Besides learning what assertiveness is, participants will deal with criticism and anger, and learn how to handle positive feelings. Sister Janet said. Participants will be able to practice skills to

achieve the improvement they are looking for.

A faculty member at St. John's and a psychologist associated with the Human Growth Center Inc., Ann Arbor, Sister Janet is the originator of St. John Stress Management workshops and courses in Coping with Crisis and Can I Be Angry and Still Be a Minister? She will also conduct courses in Stress Management and Can I Be Angry during St. John's spring term.

For information about the workshop or registration, call 453-6200.

Pathfinders collect for others on Halloween

When Farmington Pathfinder Eagles knock on doors throughout the Halloween weekend, the youth won't be asking for candy; they'll be asking for canned foods or other non-perishable grocery items.

These items will be put into baskets to be passed out to needy families during the holiday season.

The group is sponsored by Seventh Day Adventist Church, and led by Jack Pomeroy.

"We hope the members of the community will be prepared to give as generously to these children as they are to others."

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