

Monday, November 22, 1982 O&E

at your leisure

THE FIRST Theatre Guild will present "The Wizard of Oz" for six performances beginning at 8 p.m. Friday at Knox Auditorium, First Presbyterian Church, 1689 W. Maple, Birmingham.

Performances will continue at 8 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Dec. 3-4. A senior citizen's matinee will be at 2 p.m. Dec. 4. Tickets at \$4 for adults and \$2 for children will be available at the door. For ticket information call 653-6119 or 642-7564.

Written by L. Frank Baum, "Oz" is the story of Dorothy Gale, a young girl from Kansas, who is transported by a cyclone into the enchanted land of Oz where she meets and befriends a series of unusual characters.

The musical was adapted by Frank Gabrielson, with music and lyrics for the movie screen by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg.

Musical numbers featured in this version include "Over the Rainbow," "We're Off to See the Wizard," "The Merry Old Land of Oz" and "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead."

Melanie Hansen of Birmingham and Renee Baer of Bloomfield Hills alternate in the role of Dorothy, with Bill Krebs, Kevin Burke and Bud Johnson, all of Birmingham, as the Scarecrow, the Tinman and the Cowardly Lion, respectively.

Also in the cast are Birmingham residents Kitty Gillespie as the Wicked Witch of the West and Ray Preston as the Wizard. Diane Lester, also of Birmingham, is the Sorceress.

Produced by Pat Flot of Birmingham, the show is directed by Adrienne Krebs, also of Birmingham. Dan Jackson of Birmingham is apprentice director and Melissa Chapdelaine of Auburn Heights is Munchkin director.

Del Moore of Bloomfield Hills, Delight Griger of Auburn Heights and Joyce Uzelac of Birmingham are assisting Krebs with the choreography.

Others working on the production are Jeff Despard, Ed Krebs Sr., and Ed Krebs Jr., who designed and built the set. Sandy Perkins is stage manager. All are residents of Birmingham except Ed Krebs Jr. who lives in Madison Heights.

CHET BOGAN and the Wolverine Jazz Band, with vocals by Dixie Belle, is now in its fifth year at Lido on the Lake, 24026 E. Jeffer-

son, just north of Nine Mile Road, in St. Clair Shores.

Elma Santa of Southfield, otherwise known as Dixie Belle, is the vocalist. The Wolverine Jazz Band has two members from Southfield, Wally Tronilanko, who plays clarinet, and Steve Zelle, who plays banjo.

Appearing at the Lido on Tuesday nights since 1977, the band is "still filling the place," vocalist Santa said.

Birmingham audiences have seen the band perform in Shain Park during the city's summer concert series.

Santa said the Wolverine Jazz Band was the only Dixieland band to play at the Montreux-Detroit Jazz Festival, for two years. The band has a tuba and banjo, which makes it authentic New Orleans style. "I think that's why they like it at Montreux," Santa said.

Recently the band participated in the Old Towne Jazz Festival, a three-day jazz festival in Traverse City.

The band's newest record is "Painless Jazz," with the title tune "Sweet Tooth." Bandleader Chet Bogan is a dentist by profession. The LP is Volume II on the Biscupid Label.

Other selections on side one are "Dixieland One Step," "Body and Soul," "All That Jazz" and "Rhythm King." Side two is "Jazz Band Ball," "Rose of Washington Square," "Blues for Bix," "Put It Right Here," "The Chant" and "Cake Walking Babies."

OPENING NIGHTS are all in the family over the next few days, when Ara Berberian, Metropolitan Opera Company soloist with the Oakway Symphony Orchestra, and son John appears as one of the pickpockets in the Birmingham Theatre production of the musical "Oliver!"

Virginia and Ara Berberian and their son John are residents of Southfield.

Mrs. Berberian said 8-year-old John is one of the youngest pickpockets in the show and also was the youngest member of the Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus last season.

"Oliver!" opens Friday and runs through Jan. 2 at the Birmingham. The performance schedule includes Sunday matinees, and one is scheduled this Sunday.

Ara Berberian will be singing the same day, at 3 p.m. at Harrison

High School in Farmington Hills, on a program honoring Armenian composers.

Mrs. Berberian said she faces a real dilemma with the two performances, but probably will split her time between them.

FOR THE fourth straight year, the Ink Spots return to Somerset Mall in Troy for the Holiday Kick-Off, with two shows, at 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Ink Spots are one of the few groups from the '40s who continue to play to standing-room-only crowds, as they tour the country singing oldies from the golden era.

One of the high points for the group this year is its all-new recording, "Just Like Old Times," on Open Sky Records. This is the Ink Spots' first new release in more than 20 years. The group will autograph copies of the new album between shows, and both albums and cassette will be available at that time.

Martin Scott Kosins, who is bringing the Ink Spots to Somerset, is producer of this new release on his own OSR label. Kosins will man the keyboard as back-up for the Ink Spots, and Tony Martin will cover the drums, as the two men do on the album.

THE WINDSOR Light Opera Association continues its 67th major musical production, Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Yeomen of the Guard," Friday-Saturday nights and a Sunday matinee at the Cleary Auditorium in Windsor.

For ticket information, call the box office at (519) 252-6455.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Kevin Burke (left), Bud Johnson, Bill Krebs and the Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow and Dorothy, who find adventure when they journey to meet "The Wizard of

"The Yeomen of the Guard" is the least comic of all the comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan. The opera opens with a weeping, lovesick girl singing the "Spinning Wheel Song."

Instead of a jubilant final curtain, the opera ends with a rejected jester-lover lying unconscious at the feet of the happy lovers. Area residents who play major

leads are Villi Grove of Birmingham as Colonel Fairfax and Dr. John H.L. Watson of Birmingham as Jack Point, the tragic mediocre jester.



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