

Mercy Concert

A musical tree trimming with Dickens setting

Students at Mercy High School stage their traditional musical celebration of Christmas at 3 p.m. Sunday in the school on the corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt.

Larry Teevens, music director at the school, describes this year's concert as "a musical tree trimming with a Dickens setting."

Well-remembered carols and an orchestral rendition from L'arlesienne by Bizet will be highlighted with "Benjamin Britten, A Ceremony of Carols," conducted by harpist Christa Grix. "These carols, set to poems by Southwell Cornish, the Wedderburns and some authors unknown are gloriously medieval in spirit," Teevens said. "And the harp accompaniment greatly enhances their beauty."

When Teevens steps back during the second part of the program, Grix will step forward to lead what she describes as "glorious pieces of music especially written for harp and women's choir."

GRIX SAID she really never left Mercy High School after her graduation in 1974.

"I think I've been invited back for every Christmas concert since," the Farmington Hills resident and professional harpist said.

The big difference in her return for the concert season this year is that she will be playing the harp while conducting the choir.

"I've played that music many times," she said of the Ceremony of Carols, "but I've never known anyone to play and conduct at the same time before."

Grix attended Ball State University

in Indiana and graduated from Michigan State University with two degrees. She took one in applied music for harp and piano; the other in music therapy. She earned her master's degree in harp and piano at Boston University.

Grix said she believes she's played the harp in just about every hotel in the city at one time or another, and she has played with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

On her return from Boston last year she became a professional freelance harpist and began teaching both harp and piano to private students at Mercy. In addition to leading the Ceremony of Carols, she will perform solo during the concert.

FARMINGTON and Farmington Hills students who are participating in the Christmas Concert are Anita Angelas, Shannon Bebes, Elizabeth Benington, Leore Benoit, Gabrielle Brooker and Michelle Brown.

Other local students on stage that afternoon will be Lisa Daray, Melissa DeLeon, Juliet Ewing, Tricia Fortinski, Patricia Ha, Kathy Herman, Jennifer Jones, Dana Jones and Carolyn Kitz.

More singers from the area participating are Linda Kurzeja, Katherine Leslie, Lynn Leslie, Leena Mangrulkar, Kathy McDevitt, Jennifer Metz, Megan Pheby and Sharon Rytel.

Also included are Julie Rahaim, Carolyn Ross, Alicia Scarchilli, Cherrise Vaillancourt and Eileen Wildern.

General admission tickets are \$2, purchased in advance in the school or at the door. The audience is invited to a reception in the school lobby immediately following the concert.



Christa Grix, a Farmington Hills harpist, has been invited back to Mercy College for its Christmas concert every year since her graduation there in 1974. This year she returns to solo and to conduct Benjamin Britten, a Ceremony of Carols.

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