



Peter Marshall (left) is Georges, owner and emcee of a St. Tropez nightclub, and Keene Curtis is Albin, Georges' mentor and star of the show, in the Broadway musical "La Cage aux Folles," opening Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

upcoming things to do

- LUNCHEON THEATRE**
The Peanut Butter Players, a group of professional children ranging in age from 8 to 13, will present children's luncheon theater Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Genesis Theatre at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. The troupe will premiere with the Broadway musical "Snoopy," a sequel to "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." The afternoon begins with lunch at 1:30 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday through February, followed by the show at 2 p.m. Tickets at \$5 include lunch. Group rates are available for birthday parties, Scout troops or schools. For reservations call 559-3393.
- BROADWAY MUSICAL**
"La Cage aux Folles," the Broadway musical comedy that won six 1984 Tony awards, begins a four-week engagement Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. Two preview performances will be given at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, and 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7. Peter Marshall and Keene Curtis star in "La Cage." The show has music by Jerry Herman, book by Harvey Fierstein, direction by Arthur Laurents and costumes by Theoni V. Aldredge; each was a Tony award for work on "La Cage." Tickets are on sale at the Fisher Theatre box office and all Ticket World outlets.
- YOUNG MAGICIAN**
Matt Jacobson, 13, who is billed as the nation's youngest professional magician, will perform at 4:30 and 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 17-19, and 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Westland Center sidewalk sale days. Jacobson, a Birmingham resident, shares the same birthday as master magician Harry Blackstone.
- 'GOODNIGHT, GRANDPA'**
The Midwest premiere of "Goodnight, Grandpa" by Walter Landau continues through Sunday, March 3, at the Detroit Repertory Theatre. All tickets are \$6, \$7 each for limited membership and cash bar privileges. Tickets are on sale at the Repertory box office. For further information, call 668-1347.
- COMEDY CASTLE**
Marc Schiff, Showtime's Comic of the Month, continues through Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle at the Red Cedars, Telegraph and Nine Mile roads in Southfield. Showtime is 9 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8:30 and 11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays. Other January attractions include "The X-rated comedy of Jack Marion," Jan. 23-26, and the Steve and Leo Show from Chicago, Jan. 30-Feb. 2.
- THE RAVEN**
Singer-songwriter Lori Jacobs, a regular and the old Raven, will give four shows, 6-9 p.m. and 9-11 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Feb. 6-7, at the new Raven in the Northville Recreation Building at 303 W. Main, Northville. Michigan string band Footloose will perform 7-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 1-2. Tickets are \$5 per person. For further information, call 319-9420. The Raven is also a restaurant, serving soup and sandwiches, gourmet coffees and dessert items.
- MUSIC DAY**
The fifth annual "Day of Music," a free music festival, will be held from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, in the auditorium of Walled Lake Western High School, 600 Beck Road, Walled Lake. Music will range from concert bands to a talking violin. Also performing will be the Schoolcraft College Community Wind Ensemble (12:35 p.m.), Oakland Community College Jazz Ensemble (3 p.m.), Bloomfield "Youth Symphony" 6:10 p.m., Walled Lake Western's concert choir, the Westernaires, a new wave and Top 40 dance band, Ken Marzotri with acoustic guitar, and Walled Lake Western's own bands and orchestra. The event is sponsored by the Walled Lake Western Band and Orchestra Boosters.
- MYSTERY-COMEDY**
The Roselle Community Players will present the mystery-comedy "Murder Among Friends" by Bob Barry at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 1-2, 8-9 and 15-16, at the Upstage, 21728 Grand River at Lahser, Detroit. Area residents in the production are Dick Hodge of Farmington, portraying the producer, Palmer Forrester, and Margot Sylvester and Hal Bros, both of Redford. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, and at a cost of \$12.50. The remaining performances are presented cabaret-style, for \$5. Student, group and senior citizen rates are available. For further information call the Upstage at 532-4010 anytime.
- GREEK COMEDY**
"Lysistrata," a version of the classic Greek comedy in the tradition of Marvel Comics, opens at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, at the Studio Theatre, downstairs at the Hilbert Theatre at Wayne State University in Detroit. Performances continue through Sunday, Feb. 10. Area residents in the cast include Laura S. Hagle of Bloomfield Hills and Laura Lamun of Lathrup Village.

First concerts are mixed blessing

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Musically, it was splendid. Educationally — well, better luck next time. The Greater Michigan Symphony Orchestra, a pick-up ensemble of Detroit Symphony and other professionals, Tuesday gave its first pair of concerts under the sponsorship of the Livonia Cultural League.

Led by European-trained former Detroiters, Carl Karapetian, it was everything you would expect from a metropolitan orchestra handling familiar works by Wagner, Mendelssohn and Dvorak.

THE 8 P.M. concert was a relax-and-enjoy-it affair.

This fan was pleasantly surprised that the Mal Kai, a movie house at Plymouth and Farmington roads, was as good acoustically as the promoters

said it would be. The Dvorak Symphony No. 8, heard from the back row, was stupendous — a test of the full orchestra. You could hear every section.

Visually, Mal Kai is still a movie house. Except in the back rows, it was hard to see such larger instruments as the oboes, the way you can in the Plymouth-Salem or Hill auditoriums.

GMISO wants to showcase young, American-trained talent, and so it did with violinist Pyriash Chon, 17, a Curtis Institute student in Philadelphia who was guest soloist in the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto.

The Mendelssohn opens with some atmospheric E, G and B notes in the fifth and seventh positions on the E string. That's a scary way to begin, yet Chon sailed into it with strength and warmth. A few notes were imperfect, but none was missed.

HER ACID TEST came in the first

review

movement cadenza. The score, a veritable cascade of notes, looks like a photographic negative of the Oqueoco Falls. Yet not only did Chon shoot the rapids accurately, she even got expression out of it. The movement is scored *allegro, molto appassionato*, and that was what we heard.

Then there were the wrist-busting double-stops in the second movement... but let us just say it was breathtaking, and bless the Music to People organization which brought Pyriash Chon here.

Tickets were a hefty \$15 each — more than I've paid for good seats in Detroit's Ford Auditorium or Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium. Mal Kai's free parking doesn't quite make up for the high ticket price.

For \$15, you should get program notes — a description of the music, the history, the estimated playing time. Nothing. Not even the fact that the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto has three movements and the Dvorak symphony four.

THE 3:30 program — technically, a free, open rehearsal under contract rules, with the musicians in jeans — was for the kids. It featured an innovation consisting of four screens to teach, progressively, the structure of music.

In the Wagner "Ride of the Valkyries," Karapetian told us, a slide of the dominant instrument was to appear on one screen. The system didn't work. The wrong instruments were shown first fully half the opus. And it was difficult to tell a violin from a viola, a clarinet from an oboe, in the slides.

Coupon

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