

Soprano entered in Russian competition

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Edith Diggory

One thing soprano Edith Diggory will remember about the Eighth International Tchaikovsky Competition is that entering was almost as hard as competing.

The part-time voice instructor in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance has mastered getting accepted, but starting today, it will be up to the judges to determine if she will come home with a prize or a pocketful of rubles.

Diggory is competing in the prestigious international event with other vocalists from around the world. Other categories are piano, violin and cello.

"It took about nine months, six letters and 17 phone calls to the Consulate just to get an application form and when they sent them, they sent three," she said.

FEW AMERICANS have won medals in Moscow, in part Diggory surmised, because selections must be sung in their original language.

"My voice is very well suited for the type of music required for this competition," she said. "Different competitions have different repertoire

and some competitions lean toward Italian opera, others lean toward German or French repertoire. This is a lot of Russian and something that my voice sounds very good doing. I've taken Russian so I can speak it adequately."

The Huntington Woods resident is fluent in French and German and can read and speak Italian, Spanish and Latin.

Performers choose some selections, others are mandatory. In hopes of maintaining her usual performance standards, Diggory will make the trip with her accompanist, Jeffrey Panko, a student at Oberlin College. He will be eligible for a separate prize.

She has no way of knowing how long she will be there. "Apparently the first round takes about two weeks, the second round a week and a half and the finals about a week. So I might be there as long as five weeks," she said.

Diggory started her musical training at nine on the cello. She sang in school choirs and later earned three degrees in music at Indiana University. She is married to Glenn Mellow who plays viola with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Teddy bear bash set

All kinds of Teddy Bears from all kinds of "parent-owners" are wanted for the Teddy Bear Picnic, TBP, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at Drayton Plains Nature Center.

This is the fourth annual TBP to be held at the Center, 2125 Denby Drive, Drayton Plains. Last year 192 Teddy bears were entered in the competition for ribbons and prizes.

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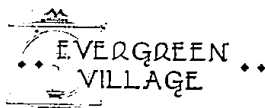
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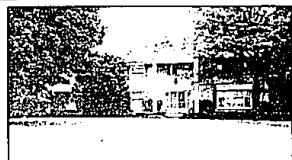
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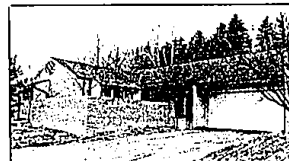
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