

Carillon concert set DeFalla's music saved the concert

Christ Church Cranbrook carillonist Beverly Buchanan and her student, Ava Janus, perform in a carillon program at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3 at the church at Cranbrook and Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

The public is invited to attend the series which continues each Sunday through August. Listeners may bring blankets and sit on the church lawn. Programs are in the church narthex.

In addition to the duet on "Stars and Stripes Forever," Buchanan will play a program including folk songs and works by Handel. Janus will perform folk songs and works by Beethoven, Van den Heyn and Schubert. Buchanan, Christ Church carillon-

neer since 1964, graduated from University of Michigan where she studied with Percival Price. She has performed in Denmark and the British Isles as well as the United States and Canada. She has just returned from the seventh International Carillon Congress in Ottawa which she helped organize.

Janus, a Troy resident has studied with Buchanan since 1983. She began with the piano, and later studied organ, violin and piano in New York for nine years. She has given recitals in Carnegie Recital Hall and Tully Hall at Lincoln Center and has been organist and music director for area churches.

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

Many of the Detroit Symphony programs this Meadow Brook season are based on music from a particular nation or region. Spain, featured in the recent program, poses more challenges than "easy" countries such as Germany and Austria.

Compared to some other musical heritages of Spain is sufficiently wide and rich to accommodate at least one good program.

However, someone could certainly have come up with a program of more profound Spanish music than was featured here last week. The Thursday program consisted of "Sinfonia Sevillana" by Turina, a fantasia for guitar by Rodrigo, and "The Three-Cornered Hat" by de Falla.

Sunday's program, which I didn't attend, had the Piano Concerto No. 1 by Giner, instead of the Rodrigo work. Of the three items on Thursday's program, only de Falla's could be considered masterful.

ANOTHER SPANISH component on the programs was conductor Tico Alcantara, who is the director of the Phoenix Symphony (he must be used to that heat by now). Guitar soloist in the Rodrigo work was Christopher Parkening. Mezzosoprano Kathleen Seger sang briefly in the de Falla.

The Sinfonia by Joaquín Turina (1868-1949) is an extensive work, which attempts to describe the scenery of the city of Seville. Except for its length, I found little else that the work had to offer.

It features unoriginal imitations

of the romantic style, with a smattering of impressionism of the kind that would never be confused with Debussy and some scattered showy Spanish idioms.

The one positive aspect of Rodrigo's "Fantasia para un gentilhombre" was Parkening's impressive guitar work. This, too, had a bad start when the microphone wasn't fully turned on for the first few phrases. Even with the problem corrected, the orchestra had to be tuned down considerably to let the guitar be heard, which proves what is already known — that guitar and orchestra do not mix.

The suite, which is based on dances by the Spanish baroque composer, Gaspar Sanz, is quite popular. Even at its best, it is no masterpiece in my opinion.

BUT THE ORCHESTRAL playing failed to bring forth the few redeeming features this work contains, having been reduced to a sloppy reproduction of the notes.

Parkening played a piece by Albeniz as an encore. Albeniz is one example of a Spanish composer whose music is vastly superior to the first two on the program.

The music of Manuel de Falla saved the evening from total boredom. His music, even at its most humorous moments, is full of humor and artistic inspiration and ingenuity. This was the work in which both orchestra and conductor came to life. The wind instruments were hilarious with their assorted, fun-poking solos.

Among these, the solos, played by principal bassoonist, Robert Williams, were most humorous in their playfulness. These light aspects alternated with the profound, well-structured musical passages.

The principal difference between the music of de Falla and the other two composers on this program is

between the ability to imitate and the ability to create.

Even the mock imitation from Beethoven's Fifth in de Falla's work produces something which is artistically new, even when the theme is old. This music made the works in the first portion of the program even more glaring in their deficiency and poor quality.

Soprano to give recital

Aspiring opera star, soprano Kathleen Byrum of Saginaw will give a recital at The Community House at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

"I hope to put on a recital that the community is truly proud of," she will be accompanied by Ellen T. White.

A graduate in voice performance from DePaul University, she will begin her master's in voice at Manhattan School of Music in New York City this fall.

For her concert, which is open to the public free, she will be singing selections by Mozart, Brahms, Faure, Cilea as well as Menotti ("Amahl and the Night Visitors"), Bernstein and a selection from "Kismet."

Byrum has been in the spotlight review at the Fisher Opera House in Frankfort this summer.

She said she is giving several recitals in Michigan cities this summer, "because it gives me a chance to be on stage," adding that it may help her find sponsors and because she enjoys it.



Kathleen Byrum

Shain Park Art Fair to be held Sept. 13,14

The 12th annual Art in the Park in Birmingham will be held Sept. 13-14 in Shain Park in the downtown area. The show, with 150 artists working in a wide variety of media, is the major fundraiser for Common Ground, Oakland County's only 24-hour crisis intervention service. The agency serves more than 20,000 individuals each year from Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

In its decade-plus history, the show has established itself as one of the premier art shows in the state attracting outstanding artists and craftsmen from a wide area.

This year's judges for the 10 "best

of show" cash prizes are Brad Iversen, photographer; Richard Kozlov, painter; and Graham Marks, head of the Cranbrook Academy of Art ceramic department.

Other attractions include gourmet and festival food booths, a children's art area and musical entertainment. This year's 30-member volunteer committee is headed by Nancy Carly of Royal Oak and Annette Arrington of Birmingham. Another group of more than 200 volunteers will assist during the two days of the festival.

Sweat shirts and tote bags with the show's logo will be available at the Common Ground booths.

Belting out blues

Koko Taylor, winner of a total of seven Grammy nominations for her blues performances will appear at 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14 in the River Rock Cafe, 673 Franklin, Detroit. Performing with Taylor is her touring band, The Blues Machine.

Taylor is promoting her new album, the seventh of her career. It features two Willie Dixon compositions and guest appearances by James Cotton, Son Seals, Albert Collins and Lonnie Brooks.

Chamber Players make music

The Renaissance City Chamber Players have just concluded a highly successful five-week, 29 concert tour of Scandinavia. Volvo, one of the co-sponsors of the tour, stepped in to make their busy, schedule a whole lot easier.

The concert tour was met with critical acclaim and enthusiastic audience response. The Renaissance City Chamber Players were immediately engaged for another Scandinavian tour during the summer of 1987.

RCCP's summer tour schedule continues this coming weekend, when they will make their East Coast debut in three concerts at the

prestigious Newport Music Festival in Newport, R.I.

In the meantime, the subscription campaign for RCCP's upcoming season of concerts at Orchestra Hall,

Oakland University's Varner Hall, and at the First Congregational Church in Ann Arbor is in progress. For ticket information, call 62-MUSIC anytime.



Koko Taylor's album, "Queen of the Blues" won a Grammy nomination for best blues album of 1985. In 1984, she won a Grammy for best blues recording for her "Blues Explosion."

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