

Marquis clears decks for 'Pinafore'

ASOUTHFIELD father-daughter operatic team will be featured when the Michigan Lyric Opera returns to the stage after a successful first season.

George Bloomfield and daughter Mary Anne will be part of an all-area cast in the production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" at the Marquis Theater, 135 E. Main Street in downtown Northville.

Professional singers and orchestra will perform in this popular operetta on two successive weekends, beginning Saturday. The schedule is as follows: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8. The following weekend there will be a Friday night performance at 8 p.m. in addition to Saturday and Sunday shows.

The production, with support from the Michigan Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, is directed by Joyce Uzelac and conducted by Douglas Morrison of Livonia.

Tickets are \$10, available at the theater in advance or at the door. Credit card sales are available by calling 849-8110.

Mary Anne Bloomfield is a recent

graduate of Michigan State University, where she was a member of the Women's Glee Club. No stranger to local Gilbert and Sullivan fans, she has appeared in "Tolanbe," "The Mikado," "The Pirates of Penzance," and "Ruddigore" with the Marian Rice Players and the St. Bede Players.

SHE RECENTLY was added to the artist roster of the Michigan Lyric Opera and is making her professional operatic debut as one of the "sisters, cousins and aunts" of the Captain of the H.M.S. Pinafore.

Her father is a veteran of the stage, having appeared in numerous roles with the St. Bede Players, Grosse Pointe Players, Southfield Community Players, the Thursday Musical of Detroit Centennial, and many others.

For the Lyric, he recreates the role of Sir Joseph Porter, admiral and "ruler of the Queen's Navy." Other G&S roles in his repertoire include Ko-Ko in "The Mikado" (four times, including last February with the Michigan Light Opera), the Duke of Plaza-Toro in "The Gondoliers," Major General Stanley in "The Pirates of Penzance," and Rob Oakap-

ple in "Ruddigore."

Gilbert and Sullivan's characteristically dry humor is evident in Pinafore, which is a two-act musical comedy set on board a British naval vessel. The commander of the ship is Captain Corcoran played by Stephen Sell of Redford who has a daughter named Josephine (Jane Schoonmaker Rodgers). Josephine is in love with Ralph Rackstraw, a common sailor played by David Trolano, but their relationship is hindered by the difference in their social stations.

CAPTAIN CORCORAN also has an admirer in the piddlerwoman called Little Buttercup, who possesses a dark secret. The captain, wishing to make his daughter Josephine a suitable match, selects stately Sir Joseph Porter (George Bloomfield), an admiral.

Sir Joseph is rebuffed by his intended, since she plans to elope with her beloved Ralph. The plot is revealed by the sinister Dick Deadeye, played by Mark Byars of Garden City and Ralph is put in irons. Byars' real-life role, incidentally, is that of a "good guy"; Garden City police officer.

Finally, Buttercup reveals her secret that Ralph and Captain Corcoran were switched in infancy. Ralph's now elevated social status frees him to marry Josephine, while the captain, now a commoner, becomes Buttercup's first mate.

Meanwhile, Sir Joseph resigns himself to wed Hebe (Dorothy Duensing), a cousin who is constantly tagging along, and all ends happily.

The "switched baby" plot is powerful and dramatic in grand opera, but becomes a ridiculous scenario at the hands of librettist William S. Gilbert. The very hummable melodies of Arthur Sullivan traditionally have the audience doing just that as they leave the theater.

This "encores season" of the Lyric company follows a very successful first season that played to good crowds at all three offerings: "The Golden Age of Operetta," "The Mikado" and "Die Fledermaus."

This year's efforts will be marked by improvements in the technical quality and appearance of the shows, according to a MLO spokesperson.

The season will close with a June presentation of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" (in English).



David Trolano
in MLO debut



Dorothy Duensing
peety 'Cousin Hebe'

briefly speaking

● CALL FOR DRAWINGS

Eastern Michigan University's Art department currently is accepting entries from Michigan artists for "Michigan Drawing '87," a competitive drawing contest and exhibit to be held in EMU's Ford Gallery March 30 through April 24.

Approximately \$1,500 in cash and purchase awards will be given to winners of the competition which requires a \$15 entry fee with the submission of up to three works in any drawing media.

Judging of the submissions will be by noted Michigan artist Larry Cressman. Deadline for entries is Feb. 21. For more information, call Jay Yager, professor in EMU's Art Department, at 487-0465.

● BLACK HISTORY

In recognition of Black History Month, Madonna College in Livonia will host a public exhibit of original artists' works, "African and Afro-American Art," through Feb. 28 in the college exhibit gallery. Featured artists will be John T. Scott and Frank Hayden. Displayed items will include mahogany and bronze sculpture, lithographs and more. The dis-

play will be open to the public, free of charge, and may be viewed on weekdays until 9 p.m. and weekends, 1-4 p.m.

● KARGUL CONCERT

Redford pianist Laura Kargul will be presented in concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, as part of the Music Guild Concert Series at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Detroit.

Invited to the Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow, Kargul is recognized as a fine pianist. She began piano study age 6 with Rebecca Froham of Detroit and made her solo debut with orchestra at 13. As a student of Leon Fleisher and Theodore Lettvin, she received her doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1985.

The church is at 8000 Woodward. There is lighted and supervised parking adjacent to the church. For more information, call 875-7407.

● MARTHA GRAHAM CONCERT

The University Musical Society of the University of Michigan will host Martha Graham and her Martha Graham Dance Company for perfor-

mances on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 6-8, in the Power Center for the Performing Arts.

The great dance pioneer and innovative artist will accompany her dancers to Ann Arbor for three different programs. Tickets are \$15-\$18. For more information, call 784-2538.

● TANGLEWOOD AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held in Detroit for musicians interested in attending the Boston University School of Music or the 1987 summer season of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute from 3-8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, in the Detroit Community Music School, 200 E. Kirby, Detroit.

For an appointment, call 273-6716.

● FACULTY EXHIBITION

The Sarkis Galleries at the College of Art and Design, an affiliate of the Center for Creative Studies, will present the photography faculty exhibition through Saturday, Feb. 21, in the galleries at 245 E. Kirby, in the University Cultural Center.

Participating artists will be Carlos Diaz and John Gans, Doug Alkenhead, Connie Bruner, Fred Crutcher, Hugh Gramann, Amy Kahn, Bill Hanbauer and Robert Viglietti. There is no admission charge. For more information, call 872-3118 during business hours.

● CONTEMPORARY FOLK ART

"The Ties That Bind: Folk Art in Contemporary American Culture" is the title of the exhibition of work by 32 folk artists from throughout the country that will be on view at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum until Sunday, Feb. 22.

A mix of more than 50 sculptures, paintings and mixed media are featured.

Museum hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Guided tours are available by advance notice. For tour information, call 645-3323.

● WATERCOLOR EXHIBITION

Fifty-two professional watercolor-

ists are represented in the prestigious Annual Michigan Water Color Society exhibition now taking place at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham.

The exhibition is free to the public. Gallery hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

● BASKETRY SEMINAR

Char TerBeest will conduct a workshop on willow basketry Saturday-Sunday, March 7-8, at Tint and Splint Basketry, 30100 Ford in Sheridan Square. TerBeest is author of Wisconsin Willow-Adventures of a Basketmaker.

For more information on enrolling, call 522-7760.



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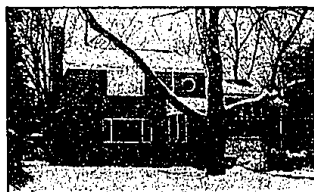
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