

# Distinguished scholar in residence at OU

Composer-critic Virgil Thomson has been named the first "McGregor professor of the humanities and arts" at Oakland University.

Brian Copenhaver, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, announced Thomson will be in residence for the 1987-88 academic year starting in September.

He will teach a course each semester, give a number of public lectures, preside at concerts and "Evenings with Virgil Thomson," as well as host a forum on music criticism.

Copenhaver said the university was honored to have "this distin-

gished artist in residence to stimulate discussion among students, faculty and the general public." As Thomson's visit concludes in June of 1988, the university hopes to stage his opera, "Four Saints in Three Acts," based on a libretto by Gertrude Stein.

Thomson will be associated with the Honors College of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and with the college's Department of Music, Theater and Dance.

Professor Brian Murphy, director of the Honors College, said that in the future, the university will enjoy

the presence of other distinguished scholars, thanks to the generosity of the McGregor Foundation. The Michigan foundation is contributing \$75,000 a year over the next three years to fund the professorship.

Murphy sees a lasting benefit to the university community from the McGregor Professorship. He said small classes in the Honors College and the Department of Music, Theater and Dance will enable students to have a one-on-one relationship with Thomson. Lectures will be open to the public and the general university community.

Murphy added that Thomson's year at Oakland is of major significance not only to the university but to the entire Detroit area.

"Virgil Thomson's stature in American music alone would make him a major figure," Murphy said. "But Thomson is also one of the greatest music critics who ever lived. His significance as a writer on music is even greater than that, say, James Humecker, because Thomson was the only American who, like Bernard Shaw, made thinking about music part of the general intellectual culture of his time, but he'd have

been a great writer if he had written about wrestling."

Oakland University hopes to host a major symposium on music criticism during the year of Thomson's McGregor Professorship.

"We could not be happier having Mr. Thomson as the first McGregor Professor in the Humanities and Arts," Murphy said. "Not only is he an articulate, stimulating and truly interesting man, since he has achieved the great age of 90 and actually lived in Paris during the fabled '20s, he is a national treasure and a significant piece of history himself."



Virgil Thomson



Michael Stockdale



Ruth Widrich

## Club announces program

Music Study Club of Metropolitan Detroit will hold its annual luncheon and installation meeting at noon Tuesday, at Birmingham Temple.

A program featuring Michael Stockdale, classical guitarist, and the Music Study Club choral group, directed by Treva DeJong, accompanied by Jacquelyne Wagoner, will perform.

Stockdale is a graduate of the Royal College of Music, London, England, and has studied with many eminent musicians. He came to the U.S. in 1983, having given recitals and radio performances in the United Kingdom.

Stockdale, currently working with WJRK Channel 2, presents "An Introduction to Guitar" for young audiences of Michigan and is a member of the Lyric Chamber Ensemble.

Ann Ross is chairwoman of the choral group,

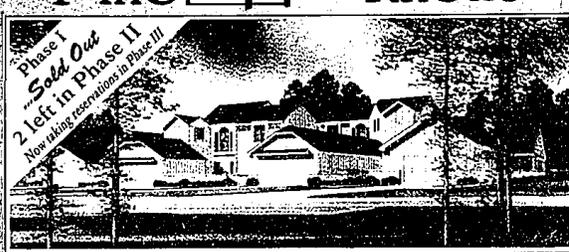
which performs at nursing homes, for senior citizens, service organizations and other community functions.

Corliss Rosenberg is the outgoing president. Joan Linden will be chair of the day. Betty Howard will be installing officer.

New to be installed are: president, Ruth Widrich; first vice president, Joan Rose; second vice president, Vera Rollin; recording secretary, Elaine Kohner; corresponding secretary, Cyrille Friedman; financial secretary, Farah Tarakoff; treasurer, Violet Spitzer. Elected board members to be installed are Betty Howard, Ann Ross, Berntha Weil, Gertrude Brannin, Jeanette Miller and Judith Wiser.

Guests are welcome. For information and reservations, call Mildred Charnas, 545-6020.

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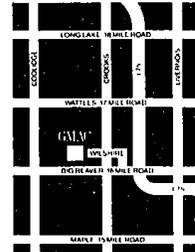
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