

New Year's on way

Continued from Page 5

Karas House, Plymouth — Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, pate and cheese table, dessert tables, carving and seafood tables, dancing to bands. Prelude and Popourri, open bar, snack at 1 a.m. Phone 592-4900.

Mama Mia's, Livonia — Buffet dinner, dancing and DJ spins, open bar 9:30 p.m. to 3 a.m., pizza at 2 a.m., \$30 per person including tax and tip. Phone 427-1000.

Lansdowne, Detroit — Dinner buffet aboard Promenade Deck, unlimited hot bar, dessert table, music by Dick Deal and the U.S. Male featuring '50s and '60s oldies, \$120 per couple. Reservations also accepted for main dining room. Phone 230-6801.

Clubs, lounges

Pine Knob Ski Resort, Clarkston — Off the Wall Lounge, Top-40 entertainment by Flyte 44, DJ between band breaks, dancing all night, hot and cold buffet, continental breakfast, cash bar, reduced rates on skiing, Ski Torch Parade at midnight, \$50 per couple, \$25 per person. Phone 625-0800.

Mr. Sports, Farmington Hills — New Chicago-style sports bar with large and small screen TVs, "hockey rink" dance floor, New Year's Eve party with celebrity disc jockey, \$3000 cash drop. Phone 851-2990.

Steiff's Lounge, Westland — Hot buffet, reserved seating, \$15 per person. Phone 459-7720.

Harp's Concert Theatre & Lounge, Detroit — Seduce and tempt entertain on New Year's Eve. Tickets are \$6.50 in advance, \$8 at the door. Phone 823-6400.

The Ark, Ann Arbor — Two English singers, John Roberts and Tony Barrand, are featured on New Year's Eve. Repertoire includes songs from the English music hall, ballads, bawdy songs, drinking songs, parodies and humorous recitations. Phone 761-1451.



J.C. Heard and his Quartet will ring in the New Year at the Hotel Pontchartrain. Drummer-bandleader Heard is a Troy resident.

Bird of Paradise, Ann Arbor — Cynthia Dewberry and the Eddie Russ Trio appear at the New Year's Eve Celebration. Phone 662-8310.

Concerts

Cobo Arena, Detroit — Ted Nugent, with special guest, G. Force, at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$16.50. Phone 567-6000.

Theater

Birmingham Theatre — Barry Williams stars in "Promises, Promises," musical by Neil Simon. Burt Bacharach and Hal David, at 8 p.m. New Year's Eve. Tickets \$29.50. Phone 644-3533.

Meadow Brook Theatre, Oakland University, Rochester Hills — Cynthia Darlow and David Regal star in "Educating Rita," comedy by Willy Russell, directed by Meadow Brook Artistic Director Terence Kilburn, at 8 p.m. New Year's Eve. Tickets \$14. Phone 377-3300.

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Detroit — Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, male ballet troupe spoofing the dance, appears at 8 p.m. New Year's Eve. Tickets \$22, \$20 and \$18 at Music Hall box office, 963-7680, and all Ticketmaster, AAA and Hudson's outlets.

Concert program honors composer Villa-Lobos

By Avigdor Zoromp
special writer



Avigdor Zoromp

The tendency to celebrate major composers' birthdays has been with us for quite some time, but in recent years this custom has been undergoing an even more significant revival, especially since the festivities marking Bach's 300th birthday three years ago.

Given the large number of composers who are known at least to some degree, one could find an excuse to celebrate a centennial, a jubilee or any combination thereof almost every year. One may argue that not every composer is worthy of such special celebration. But some deserve more than the occasional mention of their music they receive under normal circumstances.

One such composer was Heitor Villa-Lobos, the notable Brazilian whose 100th birthday was marked by a special program offered by the Lyric Chamber Ensemble. Villa-Lobos is known primarily by his "Bachianas Brasileiras," a collection of pieces incorporating Bach's style into Brazilian native music. His music may be dwarfed by that of the more established European masters. But, when judged on its own, it proves to have merit beyond the obvious.

The recent event, at the Community Arts Auditorium at Wayne State University in Detroit, drew a respectable audience. Performers consisted of people familiar to concertgoers in this area. In addition to Fedora Horowitz, who is music director of this series and a leading pianist, there were flutist Shaul Ben-Meir and cellist Marcy Chanteaux, both from the DSO; percussionist Geoffrey Kinde; soprano Ernestine Nimmons; bassoon player Peter Schoenbach; guitarist Michael Stockdale; and pianist Flavio Varani.

SCHOENBACH is more recognized for his role as chairman of the

Department of Music at Wayne State. Having visited Brazil on several occasions, Schoenbach possesses first-hand knowledge of the culture this music represents and has provided some helpful background information during the first part of the program.

In the opening Aria and Fantasia from Bachianas Brasileiras No. 2, for flute and bassoon, Ben-Meir was impressive with the occasionally demanding and colorful flute passages. Michael Stockdale demonstrated his great skill on the guitar in two preludes and two studies.

Possibly the most impressive item in this part was the collection "Modinhas e Cancoes" — Melodies and Songs — with Fedora Horowitz at the piano and sung by Nimmons. While these songs are not very familiar to most listeners here, some of them are remarkably similar to songs by European Romantic-era composers, tending to reaffirm the universal language of music, which transcends national boundaries.

The Aria and Dansa from Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 are the best known of this collection. While eight

cellos are called for in this piece, the one cello of Marcy Chanteaux had to suffice, with Horowitz supplying the rest on the piano. The result was quite impressive. The versatile and rich voice of Nimmons was among the most significant contributions in this part.

Flavio Varani, artist-in-residence at Oakland University, is a native of Brazil, and the music of Villa-Lobos has a personal meaning to him. His was the major role in the second portion of the program, most of which consisted of the Carnival of the Brazilian Children. The eight movements in this collection offered a manifestation of Villa-Lobos' skill and talent in musical painting. Varani appeared in few of these movements by himself and in the rest in combination of some of the other players.

AN ENCORE provided a brief break from the music of Villa-Lobos with a piece from Le Boeuf sur la Toit by Darius Milhaud, who spent many of his years in Brazil.

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FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: 644-3533

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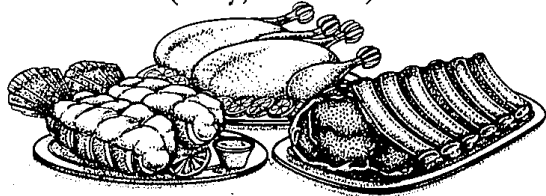
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