

Music, munching: Sunday concerts gather followings

By Shirlee Rose Iden
staff writer

Music to munch by is about as traditional as bed and breakfast and fast food, but the concert-and-eats circuit augments eats with ambience.

Every Sunday, year round in some cases, wide awake music lovers can choose from several concert-and-eats offerings and enjoy the view also.

Brunch with Bach at the Detroit Institute of Arts; Concerts in the Garden in various Southfield gardens; the Irv Fischer Gallery and Somerset Sunday Concerts are some of the places to go for culture, calories and conviviality.

New in its 13th year, Brunch with Bach happens reliably every Sunday morning in the museum's indoor continental garden, Kresge Court.

Michigan's finest professional musicians perform programs ranging from 15th century early music on period instruments, through contemporary classics, jazz, Broadway, boogie woogie and bluegrass. Occasional guest artists from across the U.S. and Europe are presented throughout the schedule.

BACK IN 1928-29, when the original Detroit Institute of Arts structure was built, Kresge Court was an open-air garden likely to be found in Italian palazzos. In 1961, Minoru Yamasaki designed and executed the first glass enclosure, a gift of the Kresge Foundation; and a second one in a new style was completed in 1972.

Kresge Court encompasses four periods of design: Italian Renaissance on the east wall by the staircase; the German influence on the south wall; early French on the west wall; and English Gothic features embodied on the north wall.

Stone insets throughout the walls are 15-17th century coats of arms and decorative devices from Switzerland, Italy and Germany, and the private collection of Dr. William Valentine, DIA director when the court was built.

ART OBJECTS in the court include 12th century French a bell designed in 1338 by Andrea Pisano; a 15th century baptismal font from Germany; and a Madonna and Child figure, French and circa 1520.

So patrons can look and listen as they munch.

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Diane Blake
Detroit Institute of Arts

"Some people come to enjoy the concert and brunch every Sunday and some occasionally, but there's no reason for people not to forego their Rice Krispies and join us every Sunday," said Dianne Blake, DIA spokeswoman.

Those that do may enjoy Cheese Blintzes with tart cherries, Spinach Pie with filo dough, Turkey Divan, or Artichoke, Leek, and Mushroom Pie. The full brunch is \$9 and continental brunch is \$8 for fruit, cottage cheese, bread and coffee.

Brunch with Bach certificates are popular birthday gifts, said Blake.

AT THE IRV FISCHER GALLERY, 28520 Northwestern, Southfield, soprano Frances Brockington and classical guitarist Michael Bryce were featured in a romantic recital on Valentine's Day, the gallery's first music and brunch event.

Folk songs, arias, and popular songs were on the program as well as fresh ground coffee and pastry by the resident cafe, the French Gourmet.

Fischer charges \$5 and plans another recital March 11-12 with African music and dance. The French Gourmet opened as January closed to provide refreshments for those who come to view the art and sculpture, all one-of-a-kind.

City of Southfield's Concerts in the Garden budded eight years ago and have bloomed ever since. In 1984, the Sunday morning brunch concerts branched out and sprouted new shoots into several attractive gardens.

The spacious atrium in the Prudential Town Center with its lush foliage and glass vistas is the original and traditional Concert in the Garden setting, and a popular favorite

place to enjoy low cost music and munching.

SKYLIGHTS, trees and ferns in the Tel-Twelve Mall's Restaurants on Main Street, made this an attractive concert site, along with the Michigan Inn and Northland Inn.

The concert features a wide variety of entertainment with upcoming performances showcasing Staples, Staples and Friend, the Balaska Orchestra, Alexander Zojic and His Quartet, James Dapogny's Chlocoans, George Benson and Friends and Rosendo Garcia Y Sus-Blue Notes.

Brunch at \$5.50 per person offers fruit, quiche, and coffee or just coffee and concert for \$3.50. Call 354-4717 for information. Brunch begins at 10 a.m. preceding the 10:30 a.m. concert.

About six years after Somerset Mall was built, the developers deciding it was appropriate to give something back to patrons, gave them free concerts.

"We started with Monday evenings," said Peg DuBols, mall manager. "We did nothing but classical music and mostly with the Pastiche Wind Quintet."

A VARIETY of classical music was on the concert programs, until finally a customer asked: 'Is this all you do?' So we started intermingling and now the concerts are almost all jazz. They really have had more public appeal."

Du Bols said the concerts have been staged on Sundays ever since the mall began Sunday openings.

"Sundays are good shopping days and the line-up of performers at Somerset Sunday Concerts makes a big difference in drawing audiences," she said. "They run from 2 to 4 p.m. every Sunday and there's no charge at all."

Audiences must find their own munchies at Somerset's two mall restaurants.

Du Bols said the Somerset concerts have been offered continuously, and the audiences appreciate them.

If you like bagels, cream cheese, muffins, quiche, fruit, and turkey divan and music puts you in a mellow mood, try music and munching at a concert of your choice.



Alexander Zojic, shown here at Concert in Detroit Institute of Arts' Brunch with Bach the Garden, has also been a performer at and Somerset's Sunday Concerts.

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