Pavarotti thrills Detroit audience

For the 19,000 fans who attended Luciano Pavarotit's Joe Louis Arena Concert last weekend, his news conference statement Friday that he would like to "make" a new production for Michigan Opera Theatre would be music to their ears.

What could be better than to have the world's premier tenor back again to sing in an opera with MOT during his prime?

The 53-year old Italian, one of the great voices of our day, thrilled his audiences Saturday afternoon, but failed to satisfy them with seven opera arias and eight Neapolitan songs. He left the stage with everyone



clamoring for more.

He sang entirely in Italian, with no French arias on the program (Pavarotti doesn't sing in German), with absolutely precise diction. The extensive sound system that was installed in Joe Louis Arena made it possible for everyone to hear even if many were too far away to get a good look at him.

Pavarotti has the unique ability to produce both words and a giorius pitch in unequivocal clarity and beauty. He holds notes beyond their count for audience appeal and it always works, in "Una furtiva lagriam" ("L'Ellsir d'Amore") and "Quando le sere al placido" ("Luis Miller") and in the final note of "Rondine al aldo" by De Crescenzo.

To everyone's amusement he added an extra trill in one of his encores, the Neapolitan song 'O Sole Mio."
Pavarotti is famous for his Neapolitan song and included six on the program and sang two for encores, "O Sole Mio" and "Torne a

cores, "O Sole Mio" and "Torne a Surriento."

The bel canto tenor is famous for his nine high C's in the aria "O mes ami" from "The Daughter of the Regiment" and for his "Che gelida Imanina" from "La Boheme". Nei-her aria was on the program, but he did end the concert with "Nessun dorma" from "Turandot" by audicute the state of the state of

arrived in Detroit from Italy via San Francisco), there is only a little evi-dence of it. He did abruptly end his "Nessun dorma" aria and didn't take the high notes in the "I Pagliacei" aria "Vestti la giubba" in the usual full voice, but instead softened the sound.

The surprise of the afternoon was the healerged Michigan Opera These the control of the surprise of the surprise of the afternoon was the healerged Michigan Opera These Orchester, which had not only on the "pick-up" ensemble of last year to a fully contracted orchester. Saturday as a sole group it performed three opera overtures under conductor. Leone Maglera — Pavarotil's vocal instructor and hometown (Modena, Italy) friend. The result was a strictly disciplined performance by the 64 musicians.

Rehearsal time with the "grandis-simo" was limited to an hour on Fri-day and a half hour Saturday, but the orchestra rehearsed much longer. Quite often when Pavarotti per-

forms a stadium concert he brin flutist Andrea Griminelli with him.

Griminelli received the first and well deserved standing ovation of the afternoon in the second half of the concert for a flute arrangement of Bizet's "Carmen Fantasy" (Borne). The difficult plece is an audience pleaser.

Pavarotti's oil paintings are on display at the Detroit Public Library through June 25. The 26 paintings are all of brightly colored scenes in his native Italy.

Pretty little sweet alyssum is a good trooper

Sweet alyssum (Lobularia maritimal) brings back fond memories of my days as a beginning gardener. It was used to border for small bed of rose bushes when we lived in Ohio. The lingering thought of those pretty little flowers is pleasant.

Sweet alyssum, native to much of the Mediterranean region, has quite a history. It has naturalized itself in many parts of Europe and Asia, as well as the United States. The U.S. varieties originally came from Europe. Eighteenth century gardeners cultivated this plant and it was grown in Williamsburg.

Originally only white blossoms adorned the delicate foliage, but with hybridizing the colors now range from pale liliac to purple and from pale pink to rose.

It was reputed to have curative

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powers and there was even a legend that if cured rables. It was supposed to have the power to counteract the bite of a mad dog and to keep witches and evil spirits away.

Sweet alsysum is in the mustard family (Cruciferae) and the blossoms are formed with four equal petals arranged cross-wise, resembling a cross. Lobularia (Latin for lobulus) means a little lobe; the stem and leaves on the plants have two-lobed hairs. Maritima is a scientific word that means of the sea — and the flower was originally a seaside plant. "Alyssum" comes from the Greek meaning "abating rage." This may not be the true plant that the Greeks meant, but perhaps a related one.

NEVERTHELESS THE multi-branched flowers, which grow from 2-3 inches for dwarf varieties to 6-10 inches for the taller types will pro-vide beauty and color to many areas of your landscape with their deli-



cate, profuse blooms for many months of the growing season. It can be used as a ground cover leading to the season of the season

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The number is 858-0200 and then directions are given to reach a particular subject such as 437 "Caring For Flowers," or 380 "Guldelines for Lakefront Lawns."

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Art workshops set

Creative Art Workshops put together by Christine M. Unwin of West Bloomfield has a busy summer artist.

From the Sugar Loaf resort. 20 strikes though at Mercy Center of Farmington Hills, June 23-23 and June 27-29 with Maxine Masterfield, AWS, NWS, author of "Painting the Spirit of Nature" and two at Sugar Loaf, July 25-29 and Aug. 1-5.

The artists/guests for the first Sugar Loaf workshop will be Jacqui Morgan, author of "Hustration for Watercolor" as SMALL \$7.90 cheese at sometimes.



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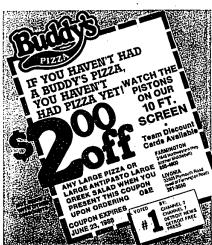
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