

Chamber Ensemble off to a good start

By Avigdor Zarnop
special writer

The Lyric Chamber Ensemble, founded by Fedora Horowitz in 1980, has grown tremendously in terms of scope and impact on the community. The talent and perseverance of pianist Horowitz were instrumental in its success.

Presently, the LCE is a major local chamber group, outlasting some of its fiercest competitors. Its opening program at Orchestra Hall attracted a large audience.

The program title, "Nonets," was based on the fact that two out of the three works on it were written for nine instruments — a rather uncommon combination.

They were an early Divertimento by Haydn, the popular "Carnival of the Animals" by Saint Saens and the Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Quartet by Chausson.

THE ENSEMBLE, consisting mostly of Detroit Symphony musicians, presented the lighter portions of this program with high professional skill and integrity. A special guest on the program was state Sen. Jack Faxon, who was the narrator for the Saint Saens work.

"Carnival of the Animals" a work, was never taken too seriously even by the composer, who didn't allow its public performance during his lifetime. The narrated text, which makes fun of the composer's name, is a more contemporary ingredient.

Faxon enhanced the merry text with a humorous accent. The one drawback, however, was the lack of a microphone. It is often wrongly as-

sumed that the superb acoustics of Orchestra Hall and the carrying voice of the speaker render a microphone obsolete.

But this hall is too big for an unamplified human voice, even if it happens to be Faxon's. I heard comments on that after the performance and I missed several of the punchlines myself, even though I've heard this text before.

ON THE bright side, pianists Horowitz and Joseph Gurt were impressive and accurate in their first passages. Moreover, this was one occasion for them to demonstrate to piano students the importance of playing scales.

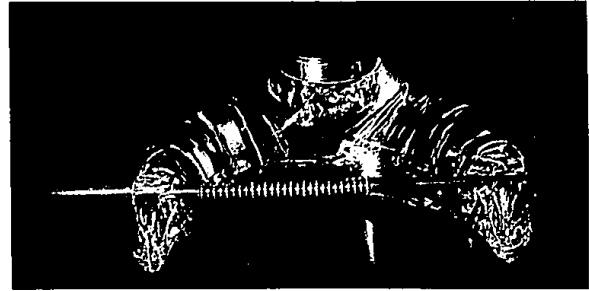
The "Swan Song," so aptly played by cellist Marcy Chanteaux, was definitely not her own — she still has a long career ahead of her.

Violinist Stacy Woolley was impressive in his solo in Chausson's work. Horowitz, at the piano, demonstrated again her substantial strengths. This work, heavily influenced by Franck and Faure, gives the violin the dominant role and relegates the piano to background passages much of the time.

While this work may not be a masterpiece on an absolute scale, this performance showed that it nevertheless has enough charm and merits to be occasionally performed.

Leslie Dunner, assistant conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, conducted the first portion of the program.

Next event in this series, featuring baroque music, will take place Nov. 4. Call 357-1111 for more information.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Inkwells in show

Betty Peplin, "the Inkwell lady," is one of 28 dealers at the Bloomfield Antique show 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. today and tomorrow at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Lone Pine and Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. Peplin, a local resident, has been collecting Inkwells and related items for 30 years. She has very early ones made of horn and others of wood, metal, and glass. The one pictured is pressed glass and sterling, England, circa 1850.

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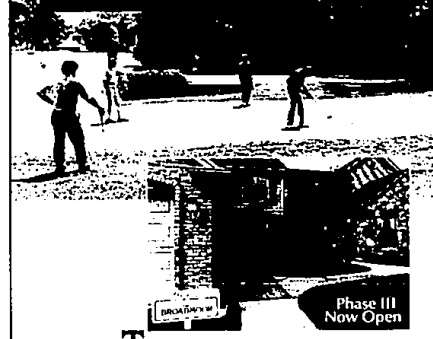
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Special show

A one-day-only show of Yugoslavian works of art will be 2-5 p.m. Saturday at the Yugo Art Gallery, 114 S. Woodward, Birmingham (second floor, enter through barber shop). Aleksander Kobic, bookstore/gallery owner from Belgrade, will be at the show. There will be Yugoslavian refreshments and live music. Anyone may attend.



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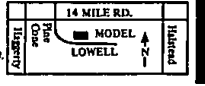


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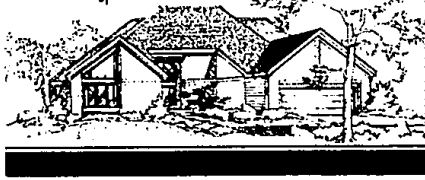
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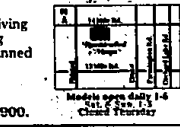
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