

Orchestra hits stride as tour winds down

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Maestro throws a party

Maestro Herbig is graciously throwing a party this evening on a rebuilt schooner in the city's harbor. It is now used as a restaurant during the day and reserved for private parties in the evening. The orchestra members all plan to attend though I do bump into Bob Pangborn, principal percussionist of Bloomfield Hills and his wife Brenda who are going ahead to our next stop, Dusseldorf.

"We've been invited by a friend to a fascinating ball" she said (these are seasonal costume balls held this time of year). "I'm going as Steve Yerman and Bob's going as a Tiger. Everyone spends the day shopping in anticipation of the evening's festivities."

The dinner aboard ship is delightful. The harbor is immense, huge ocean going ships are everywhere and our cozy little schooner is neat and cheerful. Some speeches are made and members of our travel committee, Max Janowski, bassist of Huntington Woods, and Sal Rabio, tympanist of Farmington, have arranged to present gift purchased by the orchestra to tour managers.

Day 16, Feb. 5, — 8 a.m. luggage collection, 9:10 a.m. departure for the train station. Destination Dusseldorf.

Linden Sneedon Smith, violinist of Farmington Hills, is striking in appearance this morning as she is wearing two hats and two coats.

"I've bought so much on this trip I've run out of room in my luggage," she explains. "Don't you think you're overdone in Madrid?" I ask.

The hotel in Dusseldorf is a fine one, but out in the middle of nowhere. Susan and I take a long walk and finally find a little pub on

the other side of the expressway behind our hotel people are collecting, machine and invite us. "No thanks," we reply. "but will you be open late tonight?" When they ask how many there will be, I promise at least 12. "Reserviert" comes the answer.

The hall in Dusseldorf is a remodeled planetarium. It is quite modern in appearance with suspended walkways and glass walls. Sitting on stage is a little like being suspended inside a football. I point this fact out to Doug Cornelien, clarinetist of Livonia.

We have already been joking all day about the excessive amount of pork the Germans consume and how we are ready for a change of menu. Doug says to me, "No Ervin, if this were the inside of a football it would be pligkin and would already have been eaten. That's why they only play soccer in this country, they've eaten all the footballs." The concert is good but Hamburg is going to be hard to match. The level is now consistently high.

Susan and I walk to the pub after the concert and it is further away than I recall. I find myself hoping other orchestra members show up, but my worries are unfounded. We walk through the door into one of the wildest parties I have ever witnessed.

The locals are all in costume and dancing non-stop. Jim Warlag, violinist of Huntington Woods, his wife Kathy, Stephen Molina, bassist and assistant manager of Detroit are already seated at a long table reserved for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Tom Gulick, a new member of our management team and numerous other members of the orchestra soon arrive.

Waltzes, polkas, and even a dance strangely resembling the bunny hop start to ensue. The local Germans won't let us sit for any length of time and shyness isn't tolerated. Even Tom, our management representative on this special occasion, led a

long line of enthusiastic dancers through a maze of tables around the entire dining room in a burst of waltz dances. "I never danced the polka before," confessed Tom. "Neither did I!" I replied "but we both did great."

Day 17, Monday, Feb. 6 — 9 a.m. luggage collection, 11 a.m. depart to the airport. We are going to Berlin. Tonight is an important concert indeed. Berlin is the home of one of the truly great orchestras and one of the finest modern-designed halls.

The travel isn't easy. When we arrive at 1 p.m. there are three buses to take us to the hotel. We choose the third, the one that won't start. After calling individual cabs we finally are on our way. After a brief nap we are on our way to the hall for a short rehearsal.

The orchestra rises to the occasion and plays its heart out and the audience is very receptive. After the concert Eugene Wade, principal hornist of Birmingham, is greeted by Pergus McWilliam, who was a member of our orchestra when we played here in 1979. Pergus is now a hornist with the Berlin Philharmonic and invites everyone over for a most pleasurable visit.

Upon return to the hotel I am greatly tempted by the minibar. These are little refrigerators in each room stocked with beer, liquor, pop, juice and nuts. On the 79 tour some musicians mistakenly thought these items were complimentary and paid dearly for their misconception. The "old-timers" had already warned "newcomers" on the flight over, so no disasters (such as the \$349 tab run up by one musician in Paris on the last tour) have occurred.

Nevertheless these little temptors get you sooner or later. I broke down late at night in Vienna and raided my minibar for the smallest Pepsi Cola I have ever seen in my life. It cost me \$4.50. My Turner, trombonist, and John Thurmond also dropped

a hundred dollars for a small hotel "get-together" after the concert in Zurich.

Day 18, Tuesday, Feb. 7 — Berlin to Madrid. 8 a.m. luggage, 10 a.m. depart for the hotel. It's a travel day and everyone is cheerful after last night's successful concert. Deborah Borda, our executive director, has catered a big party at the hotel and the sangria and food are delightful.

The party continues later at the hotel lounge where Phillip Kennedy, one of our stage hands, and I join the local Spanish pianist in a heavy blues number playing harmonica and flute respectively. The next day is a pleasant one and the old town is charming. We have been warned by our travel guides to watch for thieves and pickpockets, but several people are victimized anyway.

Faye Ann Reznick, wife of Felix Reznick, violinist from Huntington Woods, complains to me that the European men are all chauvinistic. She and Felix had both chased travelers checks of identical amounts simultaneously. The banker gave all the money to Felix. When she glared at him, he smiled and slid half of the amount he'd checked out of Felix's pile in her direction.

The hall here is new and slightly resembles the hall in Berlin with floating balconies at numerous angles. The orchestra is on a tier now and nothing seems to stop fine concerts from happening. The Spanish crowd is very demonstrative and gets lots of encores, something which has become standard for us now, we give it no thought.

Tour winds down

Day 20, Thursday, Feb. 9 — We are up at the usual early hour as we are winding our European tour to a close. Today our destination is Paris. There are only two concerts to go.

Susan and I decide to eat out of the hotel and encounter our librarian,

'The concert went very well although we had to start the second half twice. . . The crowd loved it and once again we played three encores. It was a wonderful feeling to be closing out the tour in such style.'

Hoon Yoffe, of Birmingham, who is also in search of breakfast. "Do you speak Spanish Ervin," he asks me in his charming Estonian accent. "No" I reply, "we'll just do the best we can."

We select a small restaurant and are preparing to order when Tanny Gordan, trombonist of Huntington Woods, and Joe Goldman, violinist of Berkley, arrive. Not one of us can read a word on the menu other than coffee. "I've got to have eggs for breakfast," says Tanny rolling his R's as usual. "Act like a chicken" suggests Tanny, "the waiter will get it."

Our librarian did just that, clucking away and waving his elbows at the waiter. The Spaniard spews out a few words of agreement and smiles. When the waiter gets to me I just point at the hen. "You should wait and see what I get first" jokes Hannon. We each get two fried eggs.

Later Tanny remarked that he was publishing an unabridged dictionary of food gestures, but when we arrive in Paris, Hannon informs me he can now act out an entire menu. Paris is always impressive. Our arrival is really special. The sun is shining brightly for the first time on our trip. Orchestra members joke while we wait for customs to clear our buses and our conversation drifts toward the subject of food.

Paul Wingert, cellist of Dearborn and Mark Abbott, hornist of Pontiac, boast proudly that neither has en-

tered a McDonald's on the entire trip. "I broke down and had a McPollo in Madrid," confesses Randy Hawes, trombonist of Franklin. It tasted just like the McChicken sandwiches we get at home."

The hotel here is impressive, but look out for the minibar. If one pulls a drink out of the rack it is automatically recorded at the desk downstairs even if it is replaced. We are in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower and the rooms are really posh. We are also surprised to find a complimentary bottle of champagne in our rooms courtesy of Jean-Claude Mosconi, director of public affairs for General Motors in France. It is his way of thanking the orchestra for a tour well done.

The concert went very well although we had to start the second half twice. The performance was being broadcast live, and a loudspeaker accidentally blared out after we started the Brahms Second Symphony. Maestro Herbig left the stage and came back shortly to start again. The crowd loved it and once again we played three encores. It was a wonderful feeling to be closing out the tour in such style.

The tour will end with one more concert in London and we will finally be going home. We are all feeling very proud of our orchestra, proud of our city and state and just plain happy to be going back to the good old U.S. of A.

gardeners' book mark

Several months ago I met the author of a book that contains many recipes, ideas for entertaining with flair and unusual information about various foods and herbs. This book with a clever twist is "Cookery for Lovers, Aphrodisiacs in the Kitchen," Bettie L. Furnia (\$14.95, plus \$2.50 postage and handling).

Ca. 92028.

We learn in the chapter on herbs and spices that a pot of basil in a window is a sign that a lady is expecting a lover. After a recipe for Peach Pork, the author writes, "If this aphrodisiac combination doesn't work, make him a potion of yeast and shoe polish. That will make him rise and shine."

Ten Speed Press has published a small attractive book, "The Kitchen Gardeners' Guide," Donald J. Berg (\$7.95). The information is taken directly from 19th century farm journals. Here is advice on how to grow chemical-free food on your own property. It tells where to plant the garden — "a prominent place where it will crowd itself upon constant observation from the house . . . one of the greatest ornaments on a premises." Information about hot and cold beds, soil, drainage, crop rotation and harvesting is included. There is historic information along with growing instructions about

common and unusual plants.

This book can be ordered from "Ten Speed Press," P.O. Box 7123, Berkeley, California 94707 (\$1.50 4th or \$2.50 UPS) or call 1-800-841-BOOK. It will give new and old gardeners something to mull over until time to garden this spring.

"The Well-Planned Garden," Sue Phillips Widenfeld & Nicolson (\$16.95 hard cover), will help the gardener plan and maintain specialized plots, from borders, herb, rose, woodland gardens to perennial and even container beds. Sixty plans are given, each with suggestions of variations of the "master" one.

Instructions are included for preparation, planting and maintaining the gardens as they become established.

Each plan begins with a recipe listing all the ingredients needed to create a beautiful area. A materials list is included. One caution — be aware of the size of plants, for example, the range listed in the book for medium heights is 3-6 foot. If a new garden spot is on the agenda for the coming year, the directions are clear and easy to follow.

"How to Grow Vegetables Organically," Jeff Cox & Editors, Ro-

dale Press (\$21.95 hard cover) contains information to do just that. The focus is on how to produce higher yields and superior crops with helpful hints such as how to trench plant a tomato if it is tall and leggy.

Descriptions about each vegetable, growing conditions, soil, pests, harvest and even how much to plant for each person are just some of the things offered.

If vegetable gardening is new to you, or even if you are a seasoned gardener, advice from professional horticulturists at Rodale and experts across the country, could be valuable.

HOMES OF QUALITY ARE OUR SPECIALTY!



509 Yarrow, Bloomfield Hills (N. of Quorton & W. of Cranbrook)

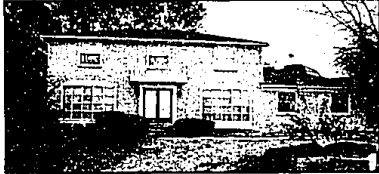
OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

City of Bloomfield Hills location for this spacious walk-out ranch set on beautiful grounds with private pool, deck and patio. Open interior design offers versatile use of room areas. Four bedrooms, library, 3 fireplaces and lots of room for gracious entertaining. Phone for private showing, \$258,000 H-37083



LAKE VOOHEIS

Close to 100 feet of frontage with spectacular year-round views! Commanding home in an elevated setting. Built in 1983 with 4700 square feet plus unfinished walk-out lower level. Boaring 10 foot ceilings, magnificent custom mill work, all showing price of craftsmanship. Plan to see this handsome property! \$749,000 H-40804



SOLID QUALITY

West Bloomfield Lake Estates. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout, crown moldings, bay windows and lots of quality! Four bedrooms, family room plus library. Very private back yard. Sprinkler system, security system, new driveway. Please for further information, \$268,900 H-38199



PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP

You have to see this spacious contemporary Birmingham ranch! Beautiful marble foyer, 2 fireplaces, family room, library, 4 bedrooms...and so many built-in! Great family area of fine homes. \$196,900 H-41796



A SPACIOUS CONDO

Exceptional opportunity! Design plus beautiful decorating. Backs to a greenbelt area for added space and privacy. Extra attention has been paid to space utilization. Finished lower level perfect for entertaining. \$164,900 H-40808



A LARGE HOME

So many quality extras in this spacious 5 bedroom home with 4 baths (sauna too), library, family room with vaulted ceiling and wall fireplace. Luxurious new bath in master bedroom. \$259,000 H-39953



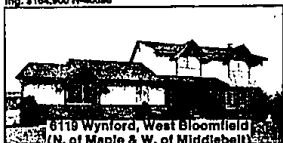
CLOISTERS ON THE LAKE

Beautiful end unit with quiet wooded setting and lovely patio. Open contemporary features with lots of built-ins, recessed lighting, white kitchen. Lake, pool with Jacuzzi and tennis in complex. \$189,900 H-41734



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Quorton Lake Estates—prime location of fine homes. Lots of updating with vaulted ceiling and recessed lighting. Great new kitchen with ceramic tile and greenhouse window. New carpeting, fireplace, deck. \$189,000 H-41811



OPEN SUNDAY 2-5

Fine family home in a lovely area. Features 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room with beamed ceiling, fireplace and doorwall to patio. Electronic air cleaner, sprinkler system, gas barbecue and more. Plan to see! \$154,900 H-41003



ALMOST NEW TOWNHOUSE

Just completed in September. Lovely River Pines (south of Drake at 8 Mile) with peaceful wooded setting. Neutral carpeting with great room, loft, den, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. New refrigerator, washer and dryer. \$179,900 H-40131



BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS

Contemporary with close to Birmingham location! Custom home on 1/4 acre. Freshly decorated inside and out with new roof, driveway, furnace, carpeting. Spacious 3 car garage with circular drive. \$139,900 H-41828