

Duke's 'Sacred Concert' Features A Modern Motif

Sacred without stuffy, great without gaudy, modern music with a sacred motif and motive, That's the Sacred Concert by Duke Ellington, his orchestra, a vocal quartet, and the St. John's United Church Choir this summer.

It played, as it has been doing for more than a year now in various cities and countries, to a near capacity house in the Stratford Festival Theatre.

With the composer himself, the Duke, at the piano, conducting ... introducing numbers ... calling back performers for bows, it was a typical interlude with Ellington.

All the great names of this permanent orchestra were on the stylized stage that has seen so many great Shakespearean productions ... and verily, it dith rocketh!

BUT THE BEAT, the tone, the words, the music, the prevailing atmosphere were something else again. It wasn't the same as the last time we saw the Duke tabor on the front legs of his piano stool at the University of Detroit Memorial Building. (He'll bring this same Sacred Concert, joined by the University of Detroit chorus, to the U. of D. Memorial Bldg. at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, as part of the Town and Gown series.)

Some of the titles: "Supreme Being," "Something About Believing," "God Has Those Angels," "The Shepherd," "Heaven," and "It's Freedom."

That'll give you some idea... There are such things as one member of the chorus observing: "God is dead? The mention of the first word automatically eliminates the second and third."

"God Has Those Angels" is blues ... it says "Wash your face and hands, and heart and soul." It's the clarinet versus the trumpet, and although Russ Procope carried the melody, an angel really must be something exactly like the sound that comes out of Cat Anderson's trumpet.

Of "Freedom" the Duke observes that it is a word used loudly, and sometimes softly and quietly.

He uses it in many different ways, more than a hundred, in this magnificent musical conclusion to the first part of the program.

He has the chorus sing it, again and again, and the soloists and the quartet, and the trumpets, and the piano, and the saxes ... it blasts out, it creeps out and on you, it surrounds you.

You think it's gone, and it comes back.

You think it's all over on a soft, caressing, echoing and



DAN NEWARD

Hilberry Season Opens With Two Revivals

The Hilberry Theatre's sixth and biggest season—eight productions and eight months—will start with limited runs of two of last season's most successful productions, "Hamlet" and "A Flea in Her Ear," which have been held over in response to heavy demand at the box office.

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The other four new productions, which will be added after the first of the year, are Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," Brecht's "The Good Woman of Setzuan," C.B. Shaw's "Major Barbara" and Duerrenmatt's "The Visit."

The repertoire season continues through May 24. Complete schedule and ticket information is available from the Hilberry Theatre Box Office at 833-5151.

Dan Neward Headlines Oct. 19 Pop Concert

Dan Neward and the "Expanding Image" will be featured in a pop concert Sunday, Oct. 19, in Farmington's Mercy High School Auditorium. Concert time is 8:30 p.m.

Included in the program will be show tunes, folk music and some rock. Robin Spjeldet, a student at Farmington High School, will appear in a modern dance feature.

Final Concert Is Sunday

Fred Fahrner, director of music at Christ Church, Dearborn, will present the last cantillation recital of the season from Christ Church Cranbrook at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6.

The recital is open to the public without charge and those attending may sit in their cars or on the church lawn.

Christ Church Cranbrook is located at Cranbrook and Lone Pine Rds., in Bloomfield Hills.

Hairbrushes predate Biblical times. The forerunners of today's hairbrush was invented about 300 B.C. by the Chinese.

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Symphony Rehearsals Are Open

Four open rehearsals will be held by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra during its 1968-69 season in Ford Auditorium.

Soloists at the special rehearsals will be Violinist Christian Ferras on Oct. 9, the Duo-pianists Alfons and Aloys Kontarsky on Jan. 15, and Contralto Maureen Forrester on March 25.

These rehearsals will be under the direction of Sixten Ehrling.

Jean Martinon will be guest conductor for an open rehearsal on Dec. 4.

Ferras will be soloist in the Tchaikovsky violin concerto; the Kontarsky brothers in Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra; and Forrester in works by Handel and Dvorak. The repertoire for the rehearsal to be conducted by Jean Martinon will include Mahler's Symphony No. 10.

A new work by Benjamin Lees, commissioned by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, will be included in Ehrling's rehearsal repertoire for Jan. 15.

All open rehearsals will be given on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. in Ford Auditorium.

Tickets at \$1.50 per rehearsal, or \$5 for the full series, are available at Ford Auditorium box office (961-0700) or by mail order from the Symphony.

Tickets are \$1 for students in groups through advance arrangement with the Symphony office.

Proceeds go to the Orchestra Musicians' supplemental pension plan.

Shakespeare's tragedy reopens with a Wednesday matinee, Oct. 2 and continues Friday and Saturday, Oct. 4 and 5, at 8:30 and the following Wednesday at 2:30.

"Hamlet" performances last season were sold out or nearly sold out all year, and over 10,000 students attended in groups.

The revival, directed by Leonard Leone, again features Earl D.A. Smith as Hamlet, Joel M. Kramer as Polonius, E. Lee Smith as Laertes, Claudia Wilcox as Gertrude and Frederick Coffin as Claudius.

Judith Muench, a new member of the company from Wilmette, Ill., is taking over the role of Ophelia. Miss Muench graduated in June from St. Mary's of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., where she played leading roles in such plays as "A Streetcar Named Desire," "The Playboy of the Western World" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

"A Flea in Her Ear," the French farce by Georges Feydeau, starts up again the weekend of Oct. 11 and 12, with 8:30 performances both Friday and Saturday. With "Hamlet" it will continue in the repertory up to the middle of December.

The new season officially begins with the addition of the first new production—Labiche and Marc-Michel's 19th century musical farce, "An Italian Straw Hat." It will be performed for Spencers at the President's Preview on Saturday, Nov. 9, with its official press and public opening on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Next show to be added is Shakespeare's "Richard III" in December.

With the addition of these new plays, the weekly runs

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Finnish Jussi Chorus Coming
The Finlandia Male Chorus, of Detroit, will host the Jussi Chorus from Finland, conducted by Dr. Eino Pohjola, in the Southfield High School Auditorium, Lakewood and Ten Mile Road, on Friday, Oct. 18, at 8 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door.

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