

Flutist Ervin Monroe Romantic look is blossoming

featured in concert

Pontiac-Oakland Symphony Orchestra's season will open with a concert at 8:15 p.m. Friday with Ervin Monroe of Birmingham, principal flute with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, as the guest artist.

preview

Monroe is active as a soloist and clinician nationally and internationally. With the orchestra he will perform works by Bernstein, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn and Mussorgsky. David Daniels, the orchestra's permanent conductor, will be on the podium for the concert at Pontiac Central High School Auditorium.

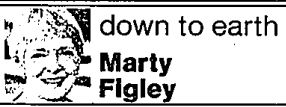
An opening night gala to benefit the orchestra will be at 5 p.m. gourmet dinner at Pike Street Restaurant of Pontiac before the concert. Following the concert, gala goes

Many "new" flowers are available to florists these days because of additional sources and new and improved methods of packaging and shipping perishable items.

Wholesalers and distributors in this country can now get flowers from other countries that previously wouldn't have been available at all or only at certain times of the year. Although there are some seasonal fluctuations, even with flowers from Holland, many are available year-round. Other countries from which we import flowers are Italy, Israel (a big exporter) and South America.

Customers are much more sophisticated about their requests when buying flowers, according to Jacqui Carney, of Paterson's of Birmingham. They want more variety, longevity and more exotic flowers.

According to Carney, the whole theme during the flower-child era (the 60s) was a softening of the interiors of our homes. People wanted more greenery and more flowers. It was a reaction to the hard contemporary cement and steel environment and trends in flowers have



down to earth
Marty Figley

been following that theme. Hanging plants and the use of many plants in our homes started to become very prolific as the "green boom" progressed to more natural things. For instance, baskets are often used for arrangements and to hold foliage and flowering houseplants.

This whole interest in flowers carried over into a more traditional method of floral expression less formal or structured — a desire to bring the outdoors in. This is even seen in funeral arrangements. French tulips on 24 inch stems, or roses that are open rather than in bud are preferred by many. Brides are even asking for open roses in their bouquets.

The natural, soft look, with pastels

understands. Longevity often depends on what the recipient, grower and middleman does with them. Some flowers from bulbs, (tulips, daffodils, freesias, and hyacinths) don't last as long as carnations or mums. On the other hand, roses can last anywhere from one day to two weeks. Paterson's prefers to arrange roses in a vase for the proper conditioning. Although red is still the number one rose color, Soula a pale peach rose, has surpassed yellow as number two.

As I looked in the holding area in this flower shop I saw fresh flowers that wouldn't have been there several years ago — colomia, golden yellow, purple latris, a deep blue monkshood, a purple dendrobium orchid (also has white and purple and white bloom), small sunflowers, a bulb flower, astrocmaria, again in a variety of colors, and star-gazer lilies, that work well with other flowers.

It was interesting to see "filler" flowers, such as golden aster, with tiny yellow blossoms on green stems (dark and light purple are other shades) and wax flower.

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