



Mary Jane
Doerr

Acoustics favor singers at church

By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

American soprano Arleen Auger would tell this reviewer that the most exciting experience of her life was when she toured the Soviet Union with "Messiah."

At the new St. Hugo of the Hills sanctuary, Bloomfield Hills, Friday evening the Oakland University Chorus under conductor John Dovaras and a strong stringed ensemble captured that excitement.

In America it is easy to take this oratorio for granted when it is so often performed at holiday time. Friday evening, the music wasn't taken for granted by the 150 vocalists including students and graduates who still love to sing. They sang accurately, precisely, and with conviction, securing the harmony with unusual clear diction especially for a group that size. It was inspiring.

Dovaras used this solid ensemble in consistent and brisk rhythms. He was well supported by his orchestra, with Jane Synnestvedt at the harpsichord and Ric Cucchi at the organ.

Unfortunately, the names of the outstanding members of this fine ensemble weren't in the program.

Dovaras used a standard cut of the Watkins-Shaw edition of "Messiah," an early edition that precedes the

Mozart changes in the score and simulates Handel's premiere in Dublin. Friday evening the wind parts were picked up by the organist giving us an opportunity to hear the trumpet of this new organ in the "The trumpet shall sound."

The acoustics in this new church are unforgiving. Everything can be heard by the audience because of its "miked" effect. The acoustics favor the singers over the chorus and orchestra - a singer's paradise.

For Robert Bracey the tenor who recently performed the role of Rodolfo in U.N.'s "La Bohème," it was heaven. There was no need for amplification in this divine setting as in America he last sang for "La Bohème." His "Content ye, my people" and "Every Valley shall be exalted" were excellent.

Joel Frederickson, a bass from Oakland University and student of the outstanding vocalists John-Paul White, shows promise with a mellowness that is at its best at full voice.

Susan Stott has a warm alto resulting that made "He was despised" particularly moving. Well known soprano Jan Albright adjusted to the bright sound of the hall with her "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

As each chorus ended there were a few seconds of echo throughout the sanctuary which gave a rich sound to the choir and the orchestra.

upcoming things to do

Musical review

The Nov. Hilton and TAP Ltd. (Theatre Arts Productions) of Farmington Hills present a musical review each Saturday through Dec. 23 at the Nov. Hilton Forum. Dinner is at 7 p.m. and the show at 9:30 p.m. The production by Michael J. Klier of West Bloomfield will feature many traditional Christmas and winterland carols along with Broadway show tunes. An audience participation section will test the audience's musical knowledge. A carol along is also part of the program. For more information or reservations call the Nov. Hilton at 349-4000.

Gershwin musical

The George and Ira Gershwin 1926 musical "Oh, Kay!" opens a five-week engagement Saturday, Dec. 30, at the Birmingham Theatre. Tony-award-winner Ron Richardson heads the cast in the theater's production, co-produced with the Goodspeed Theatre. Performances continue through Feb. 4. For ticket information call the box office at 644-3333.

The fantastics'

The long-running Broadway musical "The Fantastics" will be the opening show of the newly established Southfield Performing Arts Center at the Days Hotel in Southfield. A Broadway musical series will run at 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday continuing through March 31. "The Fantastics," as well as all other productions, scheduled for the performing

arts center, will be produced and staged by Michael J. Klier's TAP Ltd. (Theatre Arts Productions) of Farmington Hills. The touring company and the performing arts center are offering a subscription series of the Broadway musical productions. Tickets are \$12. Group rates and subscription discounts are available. Also available is a dinner and show package at \$26 a person, tax and tip included. With dinner and show ticket stub, an overnight package is priced at \$39, double occupancy. The Broadway series will continue with "I Do! I Do!" in January. "There's Playing Out" in February and "Little Mary Sunshine" in March. For more information and reservations call 557-4800, ext. 2242.

Debbie Reynolds

"The Unsinkable Molly Brown," starring Debbie Reynolds, premieres at 8 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. It's a benefit to help float a new Brigade Activities Center for the Naval Academy at Annapolis. In what is being billed as her last legitimate musical comedy tour, Reynolds sings and dances her way through the stage version of the screenplay she created 25 years ago. Also starring is Harve Presnell. For more information, call Lynne Thompson at 353-3475.

Ice show

Discover Card Stars on Ice presents Olympic and World-Class skat-

ing at 8 p.m. Jan. 13, at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. This show, in its fourth year, is designed and produced by the skaters themselves. Olympic Gold Medalist Schelleneben headlines the cast and is also producer of the show. For the second year the show will benefit Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Tickets at \$20, \$15 and \$12.50 are on sale at the arena box office, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and all Ticketmaster outlets. To charge tickets by phone, call 645-6666. For additional information call 567-6000.

Sesame Street

Live brings its new stage production "Big Bird's Sesame Street Story" to Detroit's Cobo Arena for 10 performances Jan. 24 to Feb. 4. The 90-minute musical features life-sized versions of the popular Sesame Street. The show includes familiar songs, along with dance numbers, audience participation and special appearances by debuting Muppet Stars, Elmo, Hoots, the Owl, Bert, Lou, and Barkley the Dog. Tickets are \$10.50 for reserved seating and \$9 general admission. Tickets are on sale at the Joe Louis Arena box office, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and all Ticketmaster outlets. To charge tickets by phone, call 645-6666. For additional ticket information call 567-6000.

Attic Theatre

"Sand Mountain," by award-win-

ning

playwright Romulus Linney,

runs through Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Attic Theatre in Detroit. Tickets

may be purchased at the Attic Theatre box office. "Sand Mountain" includes two one-act plays with fiddle music set in Kentucky. Tickets are priced from \$10 to \$25 and may be purchased singly, or discounted as part of the Attic Season Sampler, a mini-subscription series. Tickets may be charged by calling 875-8284.

Rudolf Nureyev

Baller star Rudolf Nureyev and Lis Robertson head the cast of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "The King and I," for eight performances, Jan. 16-21, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Tickets are \$10 to \$45 at the Fox Theatre box office, open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; the Joe Louis Arena box office, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and all Ticketmaster outlets. To charge tickets by phone, call 645-6666. For ticket information call 567-6000.

Christmas show

Northville's historic Marquis Theatre will present its Christmas Show, featuring the Marquis Theatre Chil-

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

CELEBRATE IN STYLE
Regency West —
25245 W. Seven Mile • Redford
\$90 Per Couple
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
534-6285
Featuring Ronnie J and Three of a Kind

LAUREL MANOR BANQUET CENTER
Come to our Gala
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 7:30 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
Live Band and DJ
Hors d'oeuvres
Family Style Dinner
Complimentary Beer and Wine 2 Drinks
MIDNIGHT SNACK & NOISEMAKERS \$120 Per Couple
GATE FOR TICKETS 162-0700
30000 Schoenck Road • Livonia

LeBordeaux
Casual Dining in an Elegant Atmosphere at Reasonable Prices!
DINNER SPECIALS
SURF & TURF 14 oz. PRIME RIB Fresh WHITEFISH
\$24.95 \$14.95 \$6.95 \$11.95
MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S EVE RESERVATIONS NOW!
ENTERTAINMENT MONDAY-SATURDAY BY WALLY GIBSON & CO. MUSIC 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's
30325 W. 6 MILE RD, LIVONIA 421-7370

Winter Whirlpool Weekends Are Wonderful!
Huge In-room JACUZZIS with wet bars
NOW \$50 OFF
It's unbelievable...a Jacuzzi room for only
\$75
Including In-Room Movies & Continental Breakfast
OFFER GOOD FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS
EXPIRES 2-26-90
LIVONIA SUITES-WEST 6 MILE & I-275 464-0050

Mr. 's STEAK HOUSE
Phone 537-5600
Corner of 5 Mile & Inkster
Don't Miss Our Beautiful Christmas Decorations...
BRING THE FAMILY!
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
YOUR CHOICE
Festive WHITEFISH
PORK CHOP
KANSAS STEAK
Dinner BBQ RIBS
for 2 \$14.00
Make Your New Year's Eve Reservations Now!
Party with SHOWTIME
\$35.00 per person
Concourse dinner
Champagne dinner
Pasta at 1:00 A.M.
Nata, Home, etc.

Cruisin' into the 90's at the LIVONIA Marriott for New Year's Eve
1 Night Package \$275 Per Couple
• Champagne upon arrival
• Floral Lei upon arrival
• Overnight Guest room
• Gourmet 4 Course New Year's Eve Dinner
• Entertainment by "Forever Yours" or Doug Jacobs and the Red Garter Band to ring in the New Year.
• Open Bar with 10 Drink Tickets
• Complimentary Party Favors
• Champagne toast at Midnight
• Recovery Buffet 10 am - 2 pm the following morning
Call for Reservations 462-3100 Ext. 7750
Cruise LIVONIA Marriott
17100 Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48152

Design your own celebration with the \$79* Un-Package.

This year, the new Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia is letting you decide what to do on New Year's Eve. We're not making you join in an extravagant party...no noise-makers...no congo line. Instead, we're giving you a large supply of great options that you can choose from.

First, we start out with the \$79 basics: luxury accommodations in a spacious two-room suite complete with two TVs and cable, a microwave and available mini-bar. Then, add on a 2-hour manager's reception in the evening, and a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast in the morning. We have a 24-hour indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna and exercise room. And for any of you who are into the post-holiday sales, we have courtesy transportation to 2 local shopping centers.

For a special New Year's Eve dinner, try the regional American cuisine of Cascades Restaurant. And afterwards you can dance until 1990 in the high-energy Pahrump's nightclub.

With the \$79 Un-Package, you can decide how much or how little you want to do. And do it later with our extended check-out time on New Year's Day.

Call 462-6000 for reservations.

*Price based on single or double occupancy, per night, per room. Does not include tax and gratuity.

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL
Detroit-Livonia (313) 462-6000
I-275 at Seven Mile in Livonia