

Avigdor Zaromp

## **Artists Series** follows tradition

Injuries sidelined two American
Artists Series regulars, but the April
22 concert at Cranbrook/Kingswood
went on thanks to capable replacements.
Violinist Linda Snedden-Smith,
who is suffering from tendinitis, was
replaced by Velda Kelly. Violist
Hart Hollman's left hand fingers
were jammed in the door at his
home. He was replaced by fellow
DSO violist James Van Vankelberg.
Both injured muslelans are expected
to recever fully.
The tradition of seldom-performed works of high quality contin-

The tradition of seldom-per-formed works of high quality contin-ued on the season's final program. Works by Haydn, Anthony Miller, Czerny, Holst and Frank Bridge were presented at this well-attended

NOT ALL selections were inspiring, but the ones that were made this
evening extremely worthwhile.
Hayda, by far the most established
composer on the list, wound up at
the bottom of the heap in terms of
quality. His London Trio No. 3 in G
major, for Flue, Oboe and Cello in
this arrangement, is hardly an adequate representative of his more
mature works.

At the other end of the quality scale was the Quintet for Piano and Strings by the English composer Frank Bridge (1879-1941). This elaborate work, which was performed in this series a few years ago, is a true musical gem that is still overlooked by many chamber groups. Its style is highly Romantle,

Baroque music, played on baroque instruments, ian't everyone's cup of tea. But last week's season-ending (their 18th) Ars Musica Program at Christ Church Cranbrook proved that "The Baroque Orchestra" has successfully convinced an eyergowing audience to sip their special early music brew.

Ars Musica also proved that there is more than one Bach in Baroque and that (with appolegies to Thomas Wolfe) you can "go home again" if the you is harpsichordist Penelope Crawford, Ars Musica's artistic director and frequent soloist.

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with only touches of 20th century harmonles.
This performance attempted to bring out some of the more serene aspects of this musle, penetrating the exterior, technical polish. Van Vankelberg adapted well to the demanding viola role, conferred on him unexpectedly. Kelly blended successfully with the rest of the group, in addition to producing her own shining passages. Professionalism prevailed.

ism prevailed.

CARL CZERNY was primarily known for his piano etudes, which are effective, but boring. Seldom is he featured as a true composer. His Fantasia Concertante Op. 255 for Flute, Cello and Piano is substantially more exciting and entertaining in its bravura flashes of display, even though it isn't rich with profound musical ideas.

Two other short works with substantial merit were a Quartet for Oboe, Violin, Viola and Cello by Anthony Milner and a Terzetto for Flute, Oboe and Viola by Holst. Even though Holst may have reached beyond the planets for this with piece, it does appeal to earthly cars. Flutist Ervin Monroe and oboist Donald Baker made these works sound even more significant then their soep would suggest.

In the control of th

Joanne Freeman, planist, artistic director and founder of this unusual series, continues to build an inspiring tradition.

The successful ingredients in the Ars Musica brew included an interesting program (music of J.S. Back and three of his four composer sons), and a committed and immensely ca-

## Opera's top names reached out

"La Traviata' will be your call-ig card," Richard Bonynge once old soprano Nova Thomas. He is Dame Joan Sutherland's hus-

He is Dame Joan Sutherland's hus-band and is the expert in bel canto literature. Thomas will sing Violetta in the Michigan Opera theater pro-duction of "La Traviata" at Masonic Temple, May 5. Neily Miricoliu was orignially scheduled for the role. "Think about saying no a lot," Bo-nyuge told her. "Forget about But-tion of the property of the property of the state of the property of the property of the state of the property of the property of the "Thore successor billings." Thomas "Thores accessed things?" Thomas

"Those squeaky things?" Thomas batted back.
"Learn them and I will agree to work with you," Bonynge promised.
Thomas learned the roles and since 1935 Bonynge and Sutherland have coached Thomas on all of her career decisions and role selections.

"Ardis Krainik had asked me to cover for Joan in 'Anna Bolena' at the Lyric Opera (of Chicago)." said Thomas, who was a finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Coun-

'There is so much to learn from someone like Dame Joan. What is so special about her is what she is willing to share. She has taught me everything from how to sing staccato to how to lift my skirts."

— Nova Thomas

cil Auditions in 1984 with the mad scene from "Anna Bolena."

"I SAT IN A CORNER for three weeks and watched all the rehearsals and performances," she said. "I don't think the Bonynges knew mere from Adam's house cat."

Two months later, Thomas got call from the Houston Grand Opper saying Bonynge asked for her to cover the saying Bonynge asked for her to cover the saying bonynge saked for her to cover the saying bonynge saked for her to cover the saying bonynge saked for her to cover the saying bonynge to saying bonynge saked for her to cover the saying bonynge to saying the saying t "" SAT IN A CORNER for three weeks and watched all the rehears—
and performances," she said. "I don't think the Bongges knew me from Adam's house cat."

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The North Carolina soprano's break came in Houston. At the final rehearsal, Sutherland suddenly de-

Thomas responded in her Southern

Bonynge said, "Just never you lnd. Meet me tomorrow morning." "I thought he was going to say 'go home and do your sewing," said

Thomas. Instead, Thomas fell in love with Sutherland and her husband and they

NOW THOMAS ACCEPTS no con-tracts without their approval and a learns no roles without his careful

tearns no roles without his careful guidance.
"There is so much to learn from someone like Dame Joan. What is so special about her is what she is willing to share. She has taught me everything from how to sing staccato to how to lift my skirts. Richard taught me how to get my train out of 'the way,' said Thomas laughingly.

Between "Norma" rehearsals in Detroil last year, Bonyne marked. Thomas "La Traviata" score, notling blaces to breathe, the cadenzas she

places to breathe, the cadenzas she should sing, where to rest and the

phrasing.
"Trest your instincts, Bonynge once told me. If I make a difference in the opera world, it is largely Richard Bonynge who is responsible. He

## Guild winner projects style and skill

Cranbrook Music Guild's 38th sea-

Cranbrook Music Guild's 38th season-ending University of Michigan Scholarship Concert performance on April 24 by plants Frederick Woldy was proof of the old adage: "Save the best for last."

In a finely-crafted, varied program that began and ended with two quite disparate 20th-century composers (Gerstwin and Prokofiev), UM doctoral candidate Weldy, who won the same award as a master's degree student 15 years ago, displayed a mature artistry that fulfilled his earlier promise.

This recipe, when mixed well, adds up to a tasty treat — and that was mostly the case on April 20.

Unfortunately, that old instrumental bugaboo, humidity, which is problem for all instrumental musicians, but especially so for early instrument performers, caused have with intonation and — in spite of repeated tunings — the harmonic blend was (too often) wrong.

Also, the beautiful Christ Church Also, the beautiful Christ Church sanctuary, which serves so well for organ and choral works of the period, muddles and muffles the delicate flourishes and clear delineation of contrapuntal lines so necessary to true enjoyment of this music.

The concert was a fitting tribute to his principal teacher, retiring UM plano department head Charles Fisher, who was among the heartly-applauding, full-house audience the heartly-applauding, full-house audience that the heartly-applauding, full-house audience that the heartly-applauding, full-house audience that a Bachauer, Young Keyboard Artists and East and West Artists's international competitions, Weldy's technical and interpretive skills have been honed to the kind of razor-sharpness that allows him to command the keyboard. His playing, full-loned and clear, is characterized by restraint, legance and case, as well as by personal charm and an informality that draws audiences into his performances. The result—a rare kind of

A pity! Because Ars Musica has a quality product which they present with style and grace. Perhaps, the Christ Church Gulid Hall or Kings-wood Auditorium could be consid-

review

musical "conversation."

In addition - true to his years of work in New York's musical theater - Weldy has the canny showman's ability to surprise. After a delightful, but understated, rendering of Beethoven's Joylul Opus 78 sonata (24th of the 32 he wrote, and in distinct contrast to the preceding "Appasa" and all his manufaction in the preceding "Appasa" of the state of the sta one matter to declare that "weldy's planistic pyrotechnics are a fitting match for Mother Nature" (referring to the awesome thunder and lightning display outside).

The second half of the program — three decidely pleasant sonatas by Scarlatti protege Antonio Soler (played with clarity and grace), a

masterfully-assured performance of Prokofiel's fiendishly intricate Sona-ta No. 7 and a poetic Rachmaninof encore (Prelude in D Major) — conencore (Prelude in D Major) — con-firmed Weldy's artistic Howering and placed him in the vanguard of such other, now-renowed Craphrook Music Guld Scholarship Concert vinners as Ashley Putnam, Muriel Greenspan and Anl Kofavlan. This made it a fitting tribute, indeed, to the vision and commitment of CMG.

NOTE: For those who missed the Cranbrook Program, Weldy's impressive talents will be featured (in the Gershwin Preludes) on the May 11 "Musica Viva" Program at OCC - Orchard Ridge and in a Clarkston Conservatory-Clarkston Foundation Benefit Recital on May 18 at North Sashabaw Elementary School in Clarkston. For information, call 471-7700 (Musica Viva) or 623-3640 (Clarkston Conservatory).

## wood Auditorium could be considered for certain future programs. In any event, here's to 20 more years of Ars Musica's informed and informative performances. For information about next season's program, call 62-3976 or write ARS Musica, P.O. Box 7473, Ann Arbot 48107.

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