

# Young Artist winners to solo with LSO

Four winners of the 1991 Young Artist Competition will appear as soloists at future concerts of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, according to Francesco DiBiasi, conductor.

Vocal winners are: Terese Fedea, 26, of Lincoln Park — first prize of \$1,000. A University of Michigan graduate and an apprentice with Michigan Opera Theater, she sang arias by Mozart, Gounod and Barber. "What a wonderful instrument you have! And you have obviously trained very diligently," wrote one judge.

Rachel Inselman, 25, of St. Clair Shores — second prize of \$500. A Cleveland Institute student, she was praised for "good style" and "good endurance in all three numbers" — arias by Rossini, Don-

izetti and Strauss. Her teacher is Beverly Renaldi.

Instrumental winners are: Michael Molnau, 21, viola — first prize of \$1,000. At the University of Michigan, he is a student of Yizhak Schotten. "Beautiful, rich, warm tone... I especially liked the energy and intensity," wrote one judge. Molnau performed Alan Shulman's Theme and Variations for Viola and Orchestra.

Scott Ahmed, 24, double bass — second prize of \$500. His teacher at U-M is Stuart Sankey. "Such a difficult instrument to project, which you do. The overall impression is sweetness," said a judge. Ahmed performed the concerto of Serge Koussevitzky.

THE TWO-DAY competition

**The two-day Young Artist Competition drew a record 46 contestants to Madonna College last weekend, all vying to be one of the four winners.**

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Judges were Dr. Janice Fulbright, vocal music coordinator at Wayne State University; Tomoko Mack Brzozowski, Schoolcraft College faculty; freelance performer and first LSO winner to return as a judge; and conductor DiBiasi, a member of the Madonna faculty.

Selected for honorable mentions were: Laurel Hardenburgh, 22, soprano from Wayne State Uni-

versity; David Jackson, 22, trombone from U-M; and "most promising young performer" Riald Abrahams, 13, pianist from Bloomfield Township and student of Glenn LeClair of Rochester Hills.

Funding the competition were: Livonia Symphony Orchestra, \$1,000; Women's Association of LSO, \$1,100; an anonymous donor from Colorado, \$600 in memory of Nelda DiBiasi; and Joan Deas of Farmington Hills, \$500.



"What a wonderful instrument you have! And you have obviously trained very diligently," wrote one judge about top vocal winner Terese Fedea (left).

## Classic concern

Artistic quest's quality questioned

The last round of this season's Quest for Excellence took place at the Fisher Theatre Jan. 8. Sixteen finalists competed for \$5,000 and \$2,000 awards in each of three categories: pop, jazz and classical.

This event has become a tradition here in recent years, attracting many impressive and talented artists from Michigan and surrounding areas.

It was sponsored by WJR radio with Mike Whorf as emcee. He has been instrumental in promoting this series in past years, but it was done so on unequal terms.

When writing about an event of this nature, I find myself invariably facing some dilemmas. To begin, it doesn't seem appropriate to emphasize flaws of individual performers, especially those who failed to win a prize.

It may be equally inappropriate to publicly criticize the determination of the judges, who have a difficult task, which doesn't lend itself to scientific criteria. In the past, the impressive talent of the participants made it easier accentuate the positive.

THIS TIME, however, I find myself unable to conceal my gross



Avigdor Zoramp

disappointment. While classical music was once the sole category for the finals at Orchestra Hall, it was nearly extinct this time. Not only was classical music diluted among two other categories, but it was done so on unequal terms.

Among the 16 contestants, there were eight in the pop category and only four in the jazz and classical. Moreover, two of the classical selections were hardly distinguishable from the other categories. I wouldn't have guessed their "classical" designation on my own.

It can be argued, of course, that other forms of music are as legitimate as classical or even more so. Admittedly, there is no good reply to such an argument.

I can't even provide scientific proof that the music of Bach is superior to that of Madonna or Michael Jackson or the elusive im-

mortal Elvis Presley. I am concerned, however, that classical music, to which I am very partial, is an endangered species.

WHILE THERE may be many other indicators of the shrinking appeal of this priceless cultural legacy, few symptoms are as pitifully as devastating as this "Quest for Excellence" so clearly illustrated. Most of the music on this occasion was of lesser quality than one can find in a typical neighborhood bar, without even the benefit of a drink.

There were two rays of light in terms of talent and good taste. Joseph Patrick, who played the Toccata and Fantasy in E Flat Minor by Raymond Heblie on the marimba, gave a most unusual performance. With two sticks in each hand, he created the effect of a four-part fugue on an instrument that, in most instances, is expected to produce single notes.

David Dorsey, baritone, performed the aria "Rivolgiti Lui Lo Squardo" from Mozart's "Così fan Tutte." Mozart was the only genu-

inely classical composer on this program.

Patrick and Dorsey won first and second prize, respectively, in the classical category. Other winners were Beth Barley and Matthew Parmenter in the pop category, Ronald Oswanski and Greg Fishman in jazz.

THIS ISN'T a personal condemnation of any individual contestant. All of the participants are doubtless sincere and I truly hope that they succeed in their endeavors. The promoters of this event, however, should live up to their professional goal of "Quest for Excellence." It is true that non-classical art appeals to a larger segment of the masses and emphasizing this is the easier and, probably, more profitable path.

But if mass appeal is to be the primary consideration, then the name of the series should be changed to Quest for Mediocrity.

Avigdor Zoramp, born in Poland, educated in Israel and the United States, has a Ph.D. in music and has studied piano, music theory and history.

## creative impressions

This column appears regularly. Send news items to: Creative Impressions, Creative Living, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150.

### BOOK SIGNING

Author John Vranak of Plymouth Township will sign copies of his new book, "The Polish Trivia Book," 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at Little Professor in the Park, 380 S. Main, Plymouth.

The signing will take place during the Plymouth Ice Spectacular Jan. 16-21.

### DSO EVENTS

Detroit Symphony Orchestra music director Neeme Jarvi returns to the podium to lead performances of Martin's Suite No. 1 from Spallick and Rimsky-Korsakov's Sheherazade at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at Orchestra Hall. Pianist Lorin Hollander performs Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No. 5.

The DSO's 1990-91 Detroit News Young People's Concert Series continues with Hudson Vagabond Puppets and the orchestra led by guest conductor Charles Greenwell. The program includes Glinka's Overture to Susan and Ludmilla, Respighi's The Birds, Kahalevsky's Overture to Colas Breugnon and Schickel's A Zoo Called Earth. Performances will take place at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Orchestra Hall.

Pops music adviser Erich Kunzel leads the orchestra in a program of music that features tributes to Cole Porter on the 100th anniversary of his birth and to Walt Disney at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, at Orchestra Hall. Also performing will be The Singing Hoosiers from Indiana University.

Pianist Peter Sorkin is featured in the DSO's "In Recital Series" at 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, at Orchestra Hall. He'll perform Brahms' Three Choral Preludes, Op. 122; Liebermann's Breeze of Delight; Knussen's Variations; Beethoven's Six Bagatelles, Op. 126; Mozart's Sonata in F major, K. 533; and Chopin's Bolero.

For tickets to any DSO performance, call 833-3700.

### AT MADONNA

"Introduction to Hammer Dulcimer" will be offered 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 24 to April 11, at Madonna College, Livonia. Traditional music, from folk to Baroque to modern, will be featured.

Charlene Berry, a scholar-performer and musician, will teach performance practice, repertoire and uses of the hammer dulcimer in concert, church, classroom and social settings. Participants may take class for continuing education credits. The fee is \$75. Call Berry, 591-6017.

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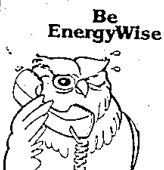
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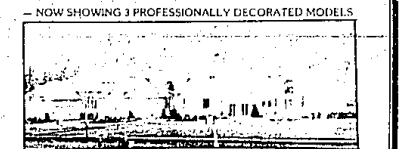
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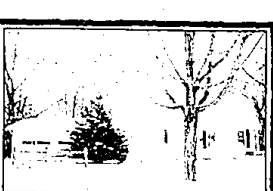
When it comes to having a group home in the neighborhood, more people are now concerned about property values than ever before. It's time we made a change. A change to the best of everyone's change.

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