

creative Impressions

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

● MUSIC SEASON

Isaac Stern, Yo-Yo Ma, Murray Perahia, the Chicago Symphony, the Juillard and Guarneri String Quartets, stars of the Bolshoi Ballet, Poland's Mazowze Folk Dance Company, Japan's Kodo drummers and the New York City Opera National Company.

They are some of the international performing artists who will appear in the 1991-92 season of the University Musical Society of the University of Michigan.

More than 30 attractions comprise the 113th season. The three main series are choral, chamber and concert. For a brochure detailing the concert series, call 764-2538.

● PREVIEW PARTY

Forty business, community and civic leaders make up the honorary committee for the 1991 Center for Creative Studies-College of Art and Design preview party.

The group will support the efforts and accomplishments of the Detroit college's student artists and to help promote the party, which will be 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, May 17.

"We are dedicated to nurturing a continuing dialogue and communication within the communities these members represent," said Josephine Kelsey, Center for Creative Studies president.

The preview party marks the opening of the 65th annual student exhibit and sale, which will open to the public May 19 and run through June 2.

The exhibit is the largest showing of freshman through senior works in the country.

Preview party tickets are \$35 per person. Proceeds benefit the visual arts program. Dollars obtained from the sale of student work will go directly to the artist.

For tickets: 872-3118, Ext. 422.

● ALL-ORCHESTRAL

Conductor Jerzy Semkow returns to lead the Detroit Symphony in an all-orchestral program that features J.C. Bach's Sinfonia, Op. 18, Mozart's Symphony No. 29 and Beethoven's Symphony No. 6.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 25 and 26, and at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27, in Orchestra Hall.

For tickets: 833-3700.

● SPRING CONCERT

The Schoolcraft College Community Choir, under Donald Stromberg's direction, will present its annual spring concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 27, in Northville First United Methodist Church, Eight Mile, west of Tait.

The 60-voice choir specializes in local concerts of the great classical choral works.

The program, "Serenade to Spring," will feature Schubert's Mass in F, "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" from the Brahms Requiem, Copland's "The Promise of Living" and many capella works.

Donations will be accepted at intermission. For information about the concert or choir, call Schoolcraft's continuing education services: 462-4418.

● ROADSIDE GRAPHICS

Plymouth resident Dan Hershberger will provide an insightful portrait of American roadside graphics in a lecture sponsored by the Scarab Club of the Center for Creative Studies Sunday, April 28.

The Scarab Club is at John R. and Farnsworth behind the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Hershberger, associate professor of Graphic Design for the Center for Creative Studies, will present "Gas, Food and Lodging: The Design of the American Roadside."

He'll discuss roadside structures, their development and the context in which they existed.

Familiar roadside companies such as Texaco,

Mobil, Howard Johnson's and McDonald's will be featured along with more general topics, including the classic American diner and pre-war tourist courts.

Registration for this lecture starts at 3 p.m., with the program beginning at 5:15.

Cost is \$5 in advance for members of the Scarab Club, the Detroit Area Art Devo Society and Preservation Wayne. General admission is \$7. A reception and afternoon tea follows. For more information, call 977-3559.

● TOWN HALL

The YWCA of Western Wayne County Town Hall will feature former priest mystery writer William X. Kienzle at its annual benefit luncheon Tuesday, April 30, at the Dearborn Inn.

In an manner of speaking, crime pays for the whodunit author. His Father Bob has helped the Detroit police solve upward of 13 murder mysteries since he first solved "The Rosary Murders" in 1978. The book was made into a movie in 1987.

Kienzle, a Detroit native, spent 20 years as an ordained Roman Catholic priest.

He'll share his wealth of funny stories with the audience after a noon luncheon in the Dearborn Inn's Grand Ballroom. Tickets are \$22. Call the Y: 561-1110.

● STATE SALUTE

The Detroit Symphony presents its annual Salute to Michigan concert at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, in the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University.

It's presented as a thank-you to the people of Michigan for supporting the orchestra. Event co-sponsors are the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall and Detroit Renaissance.

The program fare will include All-American light classical and pops music conducted by Mitch Miller. It will conclude with Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever."

For free tickets, call 1-800-942-7866.

● MUSIC FEST.

The University Musical Society's annual May Festival will offer concert-goers four evenings of music at 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, May 1-4, in the University of Michigan's Hill Auditorium. For tickets: 764-2538.

The Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig and its director, Kurt Masur, will perform at all four concerts, highlighted each evening by these internationally renowned soloists: violinist Midori,

Wednesday; violinist Christian Funke and cellist Juraj Jakob Timm (Thursday-Friday); and pianist Elisabeth Leonskaia, mezzo-soprano Claudine Carlsson and the musical society's festival chorus on Saturday night's all-Russian finale.

● GUEST PIANIST

Polish-born conductor Jerzy Semkow leads the Detroit Symphony in the second of two weeks of concerts in a program highlighted by the Detroit debut of Xerox Corp.-sponsored pianist Jose Ramos-Santana performing Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 2, 10:45 a.m. Friday, May 3, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4, and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at Orchestra Hall.

The program includes Prokofiev's Symphony No. 6.

For tickets: 833-3700.

● JURIED SHOW

Fifty exhibitors will display fine art and crafts in the Community Living Centers Summer Potpourri '91 exhibit Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5, in the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main, Northville.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Proceeds benefit the developmentally disabled residents of the Farmington-based group homes.

Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1.50 seniors and 50 cents for children younger than 12. No strollers. Free parking. Lunch is available.

● CRAFT SHOW

The Craft Gallery Mother's Day Show will be Sunday, May 12, at Roma's of Garden City, 32550 Cherry Hill, between Meridian and Venoy. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sixty displays will feature country folk art, Victorian crafts, early Americana, French country look and Shades of the Southwest.

Local exhibitors include: From Livonia — Cheryl Young (country fabric beads), Tina Adams (silk floral arrangements), Linda Dietrich (wood shelves and fabric hanging

accents), Donna Squire (baskets).

From Westland — Pam Kovarik (vintage Victorian), Jeanne Schmidt (soft sculpture).

From Redford Township — Kay Vincent (country cross stitch).

From Canton Township — Gene Busse (oak clocks).

Each event will offer a different lineup of Michigan talent.

Admission is \$2. Children younger than 12 are admitted free. Lunches and refreshments will be available. No strollers or cameras are allowed.

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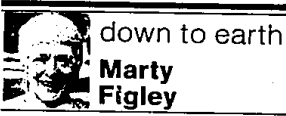


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Garden honors Beet, cosmos grab spotlight



The National Garden Bureau has named 1991 the Year of the Beet in the vegetable category and the Year of the Cosmos for flowers.

"The red beet root that we eat today traces its ancestors to a white inedible root that still grows wild along the Mediterranean coast. Now, white, yellow and red varieties are available.

I believe the best way to eat beets is straight out of the garden. Cut the tops off, leaving about one inch of stem and cook them until they are done. It may take 1/2 hour or more, but it is well worth the wait. Slip the outer skin away, add a pat of butter and enjoy.

"Our first-born tasted many freshly cooked beets when young and enjoys them to this day. There are many dishes that can be made with this versatile vegetable.

"Sow seeds as soon as the ground can be worked and plan for successive sowings at three-week intervals up to July. Sow 1/4- to one-inch deep and an inch apart, allowing 12-18 inches between rows so the edible foliage will develop.

"BE SURE the seeds make contact with the soil and cover them with a soil mix or a mixture of sphagnum peat and sand. Lettuce or radish seeds scattered in the row will help keep track of the beet seed, since they will emerge first. Don't forget to thin as the seed packet instructs for a bountiful crop.

"The cosmos that your grandmother grew have been improved so that now there are cultivars, tall or short that produce single or semidouble blooms with various petal shapes and colors from white to pastels and brighter hues.

"Originating in Mexico and South America, they have a festive look about them. Spanish priests grew the flowers in the mission gardens in Mexico and named the flower because the evenly placed petals reminded them of harmony or ordered unity — the Greek word being "cosmos."

"Although cosmos seeds can be started indoors, seeds can be scattered in the garden where they are to grow. They don't need a really rich soil, but do need good drainage and should be planted in the sun for optimum results.

Sow them outdoors when the soil is about 65 degrees F.; firm the seeds in the soil and cover them lightly with a thin layer of fine soil and water gently. In 5-6 days, they will begin to appear.

SINCE THERE are so many cultivars, cosmos adapt well to many garden situations and several different ones can be grown in the same bed with interesting results. C. bipinnatus, C. bipinnatus Geranium F1 "Freckles," a pink bloom with a rose freckle in each petal; Pansy "Padparadja," bright pumpkin orange, and Pansy F1 "Maxim Maxim" long-blooming in shades of blue.

Three vines are winners: "Pretty in Rose," very deep rose color; "Parasol," large white blooms with a red center; and "Pretty in Pink," a pastel shade.

Winning vegetables that meet the criteria for taste, color and yield are Squash F1 "Tivoli," a spaghetti squash with a compact growth habit; Watermelon F1 "Golden Crown" with a golden yellow rind (about 6-8 pounds); and bean "Kentucky Blue," a pole bean which should be picked when 6-7 inches long for optimum flavor.

Marty Figley is a certified master gardener, based in Birmingham. This column runs the first, second and fourth Thursdays of each month.