



Aretha Franklin, superstar who lives in Bloomfield Hills, performs at an "Evening with Aretha!" benefit concert for the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at the Phoenix Center Amphitheater in downtown Pontiac. For ticket information call the Pontiac Silverdome box office at 458-1600 or any Ticketmaster outlet. For benefactor ticket information call 334-6024.

upcoming things to do

● MEADOW BROOK

MTV host Peter Noone, formerly Herman of Herman's Hermits, performs along with the Coasters, the Shangri-Las and the Crystals at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival at Baldwin Pavilion at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Fireworks will follow the concert. Mitch Miller celebrates his 80th

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Music maker

Career switch helps pursue dream

By Mary Jane Doern
special writer

THIRTY-THREE-year-old Keith Koster is a retiree. For 15 years, he worked the line at General Motors building trucks and dreaming of a music career. He kept working, going to night school to earn two music degrees, an undergraduate and graduate degree. He then finished a second master's degree in business.

When GM offered him the incentive for early retirement, he took it. "I am still not where I want to be financially, but I am so much happier," said Koster, who now teaches music at St. Mary's Prep School and College in Orchard Lake and is the director of music at the Utica United Methodist Church.

"I did not think I would like teaching high school but the kids are great."

FOR THE LAST two years Koster has pursued another dream. He is co-founder and musical director of the Great Lakes Men's Chorus, a local chamber ensemble that is, for the first time, venturing into vocal jazz in a concert at 8 p.m. Friday at Cranbrook House, 380 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets at \$10 are available at the door.

Joining the 12-member ensemble is the Wayne State University Vocal Jazz Ensemble, which is making its final appearance in this area before appearing in Switzerland at the Montreux Jazz Festival.

"This has been a real challenge for me," said Michael Moore of Redford, co-founder of the Great Lakes Men's Chorus. Moore is a classically trained baritone with a music degree from Eastern Michigan University who teaches music in Plymouth.

"The chords are very close together in vocal jazz, and it is sometimes



Keith Koster, a high school music teacher in Orchard Lake, takes a break during a music conference. He is co-founder of the Great Lakes Men's Chorus.

harder to hear the changes," said Moore. "I have gained so much respect for Cole Porter's music."

Koster has planned a medley of Porter's music -- "Night and Day," "Don't Fence Me In" and "After You" -- to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the American composer's birth in 1891 in Peru, Ind.

Also from the 1920s-'30s era, he has programmed a medley of Duke Ellington tunes including "Hit Me with a Hot Note" and Rodgers and Hart's "Little Boy Blue." From the vocal group Manhattan Transfer he has taken "Route 66" and "Java."

Jive." A jazzed-up version of "Over the Rainbow" will precede a com-

bined arrangement from "American Bandstand" called "Bandstand Bogie." The Wayne State ensemble is planning to preview some of the Montreux Jazz Festival program.

IN THE TWO years since the Great Lakes Men's Chorus has been in existence it has given three concerts each year and about 10 community programs. The 12 singers are all volunteers and come from all over the suburban area. They all have other jobs and rehearse once a week on Tuesday evenings. Some are professional musicians like Moore and Koster. For others it is their

first venture into performance singing.

As with any entertainment group, the cost of the performance quickly adds up -- renting the hall, cleaning the tuxedos for each performer, news releases, and so on. Kuder says costs for the chorus have already reached \$5,000 for each concert, which he says seems impossible.

He and other members of the board of directors want to enlarge the size of the chorus to 25 or 30 and increase the number of concerts. They want to keep the quality of their music high but want to expand

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Meadow Brook

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Great American Concert Band

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"Some Enchanted Evening"

music & lyrics by Richard Rodgers & the Oscar Hammerstein II
 Skitch Henderson, conductor
 Meadow Brook Festival Orchestra
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Concerts start at 8:00 p.m.



Meadow Brook Music Festival

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