



DELLA REESE

Thinks Young

Della Wants The Credit

By BETTY MASSON

Della Reese is 39 and proud of it. Her 40th birthday coming up in July, a traumatic landmark for many, causes her no qualms.

"I want credit for all the years I've been around," she claims.

"Detroit's own" Della opened Thursday evening in Lofy's Pavilion Room in Plymouth, and found that coming home again can pose some problems and solve some.

A youthful-thinking performer, Della likes the "young" songs, such as "Everything Is Beautiful," "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" and "For Once In My Life." But she found out opening night that her Observerland audiences wanted to hear her "old" songs.

OPENING NIGHT Della promised her audience that

she and her arranger would work on some of the "oldies." She will perform some during her stay at Lofy's (until March 20.)

The problem that coming home solves for Della is loneliness. Usually when she is on tour and has finished her act, a motel room is a pretty lonely place.

In Framingham, Mass., it can be at any rate. But it will be no problem here. Getting sleep may be, says Della. Della left Detroit when she was 21 after touring summers with the famed spiritual singer, Mahalia Jackson.

ONE OF THE great things about Della's act is that she uses no tricks or gimmicks. Even her costumes are simple and understated. But her sincerity comes through as powerfully as does her husky, lyrical voice.

According to Della, there comes a time in everyone's

life "when they start learning to adjust to life." Her time came when she was 13 and on her first tour.

She thought her voice was the greatest. "I considered myself a star," she laughed.

But one night a young girl in the audience started to sing, and Della quickly learned that "no matter how good you can do a thing, there's always someone who can do it better."

Della's act alternates the modern ballad with a message which are as much fun as her singing.

Her topics range from the younger generation — "They are the most interested and therefore the most interesting" — to the story of her "confrontation last year with a plate glass sliding door, which the door won."

It's a satisfying performance.

Amusements



MRS. MARILYN BUNTON

Marilyn Bunton Organ Soloist With Symphony

When the Redford Civic Symphony made plans for a special concert this month, it had only to look to its own members for a solo candidate who would provide an interesting and "different" program.

Since playing the violin isn't enough for Mrs. Marilyn Bunton of Redford Township, Sunday she will play "all the instruments wrapped up in one," the organ.

Mrs. Bunton will be soloist with the symphony in St. Paul Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, Sunday, March 14, at 4 p.m.

PLAYING THE organ is not unusual for Mrs. Bunton. She is organist at Brightmoor Tabernacle and has played either the organ or piano in church since she was 11 years old.

But being featured as a symphony soloist is new, and she confesses to being "a little nervous."

Mrs. Bunton will play Handel's Organ Concerto in F major No. 13 with the orchestra. This melodic piece is also known as "The Cuckoo and the Nightingale." She will also play Toccata and Fugue in D minor by Bach and "Les Petites Cloches" by Purvis.

The orchestra will perform Mozart's Overture to "The Magic Flute," Handel's Prelude and Fugue in D minor and Concerto for Orchestra in D major, also by Handel.

Associate conductor Robert Zimmerman, who helped arrange for the use of St. Paul Church, will lead the orchestra in Mrs. Bunton's first number. Redford conductor John Gajec will direct the rest of the concert.

Tickets will be sold at the door. They are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Certainly she has never lost the interest in music she developed as a child. She has played in symphonies for about 23 years, and has been with the Redford group for the last three years.

As a teenager, she played in the Garden City High School Band. She believes her interest in music may have been stimulated by an uncle and aunt who both played in the Philadelphia Philharmonic. About five years ago, Mrs. Bunton started her serious study of the organ. She now takes weekly lessons from Frank Kuhlman of Ann Arbor, who teaches at Schoolcraft College.

THE WIFE of DSR bus driver William Bunton, she has encouraged their children, in musical interests. Their daughter Cindy, 14, is first chair clarinetist with the Hilbert Junior High Band and a "capable piano player," according to her mother.

Sometimes the two play duets in church, and Cindy may well turn the pages for her at Sunday's concert.

David, who is 12, also plays the piano and clarinet. Byron is six, but his time will come.

Not only does Mrs. Bunton have a busy musical schedule, but after weighing the pros and cons of going back to work when the children were all in school, she decided to put her sewing talents to use. She makes all her own clothes and her daughter's, and she's been sewing for customers "full-time" for a year now.

It's a good bet that the gown she chooses for her first symphony solo appearance will be one she created herself.

Teenage Musicians In Concert

Observerland high school students will be among 250 teenage musicians and singers who will be spotlighted in a one-hour special "American Youth Performs—A Musical Night to Remember 1971."

The program will be telecast Tuesday, March 16, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., on WJBK-TV2.

SEEN IN the telecast will be band members Sharon Foster (flute), Shelley Rider (flute), Mark Kieme (tenor sax), Stuart Delaney (French horn) and Chuck Davis (trombone), all of Plymouth; and Carole Barann (flute), a student at Livonia's Ladywood High School.

Also from Ladywood are sopranos Anne Banks and Kathleen Sinclair, and alto Francine D'Elasi. Clarinette students in the chorus are soprano Barbara Ouellette, alto Jacqueline Zukin and tenors Douglas Ahonen and William Jodway.

THEY WERE chosen through a series of auditions and recommendations by music directors. The program is a "live tape" of the concert performed this month in Ford Auditorium.

Guest conductors include Morton Gould, Robert Preston is the guest pianist.

The program is a joint presentation by Detroit Public Schools, the TV station and American Airlines.

'George M' To Be Staged

SOUTHGATE St. Pius Southgate Community Players will present the musical "George M." in Davidson Auditorium, Trenton Rd. at Leroy, Southgate. It will be staged March 18, 19, 20, 26 and 27 at 8:30 p.m. and March 28, at 2 p.m.

"George M." is about the life and music of George M. Cohan, and is suitable for the entire family.



DICK BENSEK

Everyone knows of Ireland's fondness for the potato, but few know about colcannon, a favorite in Ireland, made of potatoes and cabbage. Peel and mash 6 boiled potatoes with melted butter, salt, pepper, and a small onion. Chop coarsely 1 small boiled cabbage head, and add it to the potato. Heat, but do not brown the mixture in a buttered pan. When very hot, heap in a mound. Make a well in the center, and pour in ¼ cup melted butter. This dish is delicious by itself, or it may be used as the perfect complement to your favorite corned, chops, or fish. And with steak? Irresistible!

You'll receive many compliments and your guests will be delighted when you bring them to DANISH INN, 32305 Grand River Ave., 478-6320. Good wine selection, decorated cakes available for birthdays and anniversaries. Beautiful supper club atmosphere and the great piano music of Pat Flowers playing memorable jazz, boogie and classical music from 8:30 p.m. to closing Tuesdays thru Saturdays.

HELPFUL HINT: A little vanilla pod and a piece of cotton and placed in the refrigerator will eliminate odors.

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Barbara McNeil
Saturday 6:30

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MAN INSIDE
SUNDAY 7:30 P.M.
THEATRE 9
Jack Palance Anita Ekberg



PROF. CARL BJERREGAARD
Conductor, WMU Ensemble

Wind Ensemble Plans Concert

A group of 50 outstanding wind and percussion players from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, will display their talents in O'Leary Auditorium, Garden City East High School, Wednesday, March 17, at 8 p.m.

The WMU Wind Ensemble is being brought to the area by the Community Concert Series of Schoolcraft College. The ensemble will perform at the college at 3 p.m. March 17.

THE AREA CONCERTS will include a composition of Robert W. Jones, composer-in-residence at Schoolcraft, Toccata Concertante.

Also on the programs will be modern and not-so-modern works including Passacaglia and Fugue by Bach; Symphonietta by Willem van Otterloo; Elegy Fanfare and

March by Roger Nixon, "Jazz Tangents" by David Ward-Stienman; Toccata Marzai by Ralph Vaughan Williams; "Prelude Paradigm" by Robert Washburn; and "Quincunx" (A Satirical Suite) by Robert Jager.

Alan Brown will be featured in "Sound Print 15," a percussion solo with wind ensemble by Monte Tubb.

Terry Baxter will be the soloist in Concerto for C major for Piccolo and Band by Vivaldi.

There will be no admission charge for either concert.

The Wind Ensemble is unusual in that it embraces the chamber music concept of one player per part as opposed to the common use of multiple players on each part in most bands.

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