

OBSERVER

Symphony Notes:

Poulenc: Contemporary, Conservative, Vulgar

By TIM RICHARD

It's almost mandatory, these days, to schedule a modern work on the concert program. "After an all-Beethoven program once," says Wayne Dunlap, Plymouth Symphony conductor, "I had a woman who likes Beethoven say she missed having a modern composer on the program."

The modern in this Sunday's program, which begins at 4 p.m. in Plymouth High School, will be Francis Poulenc (1899-1963).

But Poulenc is a "conservative" modern, according to one of the men who will perform. HE IS pianist Agnès Shaffer, who will be heard in "Aubade, Chaconne and Concerto for Piano and 18 Instruments," which Poulenc wrote in 1929.

"It's contemporary, but it doesn't jar me. It's traditional and conservative compared to pieces written even 10 or 20 years before," says Shaffer. "Aubade" is a term that means "morning music" in the context of a morning concert. But it has also come to mean outdoor music, and that applies to the Poulenc "Aubade," Shaffer went on.

"Poulenc had a lot of wealthy friends and wrote many works on commission for private performances before their public performances," he said. This Aubade was written as a ballet score for performance in a Parisian mansion. The story line is that the goddess Diana rebels against a divine law that has condemned her to eternal purity. Five of the eight dances will be played in Sunday's concert.

DESPITE ITS conservatism in contemporary terms, the Aubade has a few surprises. "One of the middle sections, 'Diane et Compagnes,' is almost honky-tonk; the rhythm is more excited. It's almost obscene (in a musical sense) I think," says Shaffer.

"And there's an overly melodramatic cello part in the section just before Diana's departure."

The reason, Shaffer says, is that Poulenc's music was part of a movement in which composers deliberately vulgarized their styles.

He compares it to the late Marcel Duchamp, the artist who died recently in France. Duchamp painted a mustache on a print of the Mona Lisa, once submitted a urinal titled "Fountain" to a salon.

SHAFER'S contribution to this Sunday's concert is likely to be overlooked in a program which features pianist William Dogman soloing in the Beethoven fourth piano concerto.

The bearded Shaffer, 38, lives in Dearborn Heights, teaches summers at Schoolcraft College, and teaches music theory at the University of Michigan, where he is working on his doctorate.

New to the Plymouth Symphony Sunday will be a chamber organization offered by the Women's League from antique market sales at the Fall Festival.

It will be used for the first time in solo parts in "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks" by Richard Strauss. Girl Scouts will provide free baby-sitting for children aged two to six.



IN REHEARSAL — Dan Neward (center) rehearses a number for the Oct. 19 Pop Concert in Mercy High School with two members of the "Expanding Image." Left is George Ransford, while Barry Tegal is the man on the right. Tickets for the Saturday night concert may be purchased at all Grinnell stores or at the door the night of the performance. Concert time is 8:30 p.m.

ON WATCH — Arthur Laupus, Earl D.A. Smith and David Adamson appear in a scene from the W.S.U. Hilberry Theatre production of "Hamlet." Shakespeare's classic plays until mid-December.

More Than One Million Visit Greenfield Village

Admissions to Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village topped the one million mark for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1968 as more than 30,000 persons attended the Village's two-day Old Car Festival.

The fiscal count as of Sunday evening, Sept. 8, stood at 1,026,402, 1.5 per cent ahead of the same time last year. 1967 proved to be the third best attendance year in the history of the Museum and Village.

The Village's tourist information booth received 39,500 inquiries from travelers during its 86 days of summer operation. The most frequent question, other than those about the Museum and Village, were concerned with directions to other locations and what other attractions are located in southeastern Michigan. The average number of inquiries per day was about 460.

The Old Car Festival marks the end of the summer season at the Museum and Village which are open all year around. Week-

ends now will become the prime time for visitors, and the Village has arranged schedules so that all of its crafts will be in operation throughout each weekend.

More than a dozen crafts will be demonstrated, to be joined in October by the operation of the Village Cider Mill.

Concert Features Soloists

Nafael Orozco, 22-year-old Spanish pianist, and Linda Snel-

den Smith, 27-year-old violinist with the Detroit Symphony, will be featured artists at this Thursday, Oct. 17, evening's Detroit Symphony Orchestra concert.

The concert will begin at 8:30 p.m. in Ford Auditorium. Sixteen Erling will conduct. Orozco will be making his first appearance in the United States. He will play the selection with which he won the Leeds International competition two years ago—Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor.

Orozco, the son of a musician and a native of Cordoba, began his musical training at age 13, entering the Conservatorio de Madrid. He later studied with Guido Agosti at the Accademia Chigiana and with Alexis Weissenberg in Madrid.

Miss Smith joined the Detroit Symphony in 1967. Previously she was with the Rochester Philharmonic and the Aspen Festival Orchestra. She appeared as a soloist with the Cleveland Women's Symphony, the Shaker Heights Symphony, and the East Rochester Symphony.

Tickets are available at the Ford Auditorium Box Office (661-6700) and at all Grinnell's and all Hudson's.

EMU Sets Season Ticket Sale

Eastern Michigan University has announced its annual season ticket sale for the 1968-1969 season of the University Players.

Four productions are scheduled for the season which includes two comedies and two serious dramas.

Plays are: Moliere's "The Miser" Oct. 23 to 27; "The House of Bernarda Alba" by Garcia Lorca Jan. 15 to 19; the French farce "An Italian Straw Hat" March 26 to 30; and the Broadway hit "The Royal Hunt of the Sun" May 28 to June 1.

Coupon books for the season tickets are priced at \$5. They may be purchased at the EMU Theatre Box Office in the Quirk Building weekdays from 12:45 to 4:30 p.m. or by mail.

Coupon bookholders receive first choice for reserved-seat tickets a full week in advance of the opening of general sales and receive their first choice of performances and locations. The sale continues until Oct. 21.



PETITE PEGGY — Making a special guest star appearance with the Ice Follies will be Peggy Fleming, U.S. Gold Medalist in the 1968 Winter Olympic Games and three-time winner of the World Figure Skating championships. The Ice Follies will be at the Olympia Stadium from Nov. 12 through Nov. 24.

October Events Listed

Nature sets the pattern for colorful October events and scheduled color festivals, carnivals and celebrations, according to the Michigan Tourist Council.

Listed among the fall color activities is the Carnival of Color to be held at Grayling, Oct. 11-13. During the festival the community will offer free pontoon boat rides on Lake Margherite, considered an excellent vantage point from which

to view the woods. In addition to boat rides there will be contests, canoe trips, dancing and entertainment.

Many other Michigan communities have posted color tours through the woods in their areas.

Several of the leading race car drivers of the world will be on hand to compete in the 250-mile inaugural race at the new Michigan International Speedway, Cambridge Junction, in the Irish Hills, Oct. 13.

A snowmobile and winter sports show is scheduled for Oct. 19-23, at the Artillery Armory in Detroit. The show features a wide array of snowmobiles as well as displays of skis, outdoor accessories and clothing, and winter camping gear.

The bow and arrow deer hunting season runs from Oct. 1 through Nov. 14. Pheasant season opens Oct. 21.

Copies of the Fall Calendar of Events, listing community happenings in Michigan during the fall season are available without charge from the Michigan Tourist Council, Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing, 48926.

Center Sells Season Tickets

Season tickets are now being sold at Center Theatre of the Jewish Community Center. For its 10th season, this outstanding theatre organization offers three plays, providing a variety of fine drama to the discriminating theatre-goer.

"J.B.," a verse drama by Archibald MacLeish, will be presented Nov. 2, 3, 6, 9, and 10. Set in a circus tent and based on the biblical story of Job, this unusual play affirms man's capacity to endure and love. Drawing closely on scripture, author MacLeish shifts the emphasis from God's glory to man's heroic acceptance of life.

"J.B." will be directed by Harry Goldstein, who will be remembered by Detroiters as one of the founders and the managing director of the Actors' Company.

On Feb. 15, 16, 19, 22 and 23, Moss Hart's comedy "Light Up the Sky" will be presented. The play provides a view of that incredible, fascinating and endlessly comic world where plays come into being. The actions and reactions of the theatre people involved in this riotous play give the audience an evening of refreshingly honest hilarity. Directing this play will be Hal Yungblood, star of WJZ's radio program "In Contact."

Center Theatre's final offering of the new season, "Right You Are" by Luigi Pirandello, will be presented on May 3, 4, 7, 10 and 11. This is a tantalizing play which states the thesis that you know the truth, if you think you do, and that the same statement applies to your neighbor.

In a provincial town in Italy, the strange goings on of a newly arrived family provide the opportunity for seeking the truth. The audience must decide how successful the search has been.

Season tickets may be purchased at the Jewish Community Center or by calling Center Theatre, DI 1-4200, ext. 240.

BRUSH SPENDERS

According to the American Brush Manufacturers Association, women spend more on hairbrushes each year than they do on nail polish or perfume.

'American Primitives' Exhibition Opens Oct. 15

The spontaneous charm of untrained early American artists is evident in family portraits, still lifes, and nautical scenes making up "101 American Primitive Watercolors and Pastels," which opens at the Detroit Institute of Arts Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Selections are from more than 1,000 primitive paintings owned by Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch. In 1964 Detroit Institute of Arts visitors saw 101 oil paintings from the same collection.

Mrs. Garbisch is the daughter of the late Walter P. Chrysler. She and Colonel Garbisch were among the first collectors to search out prime examples of this native American art.

HISTORICALLY, the coming exhibition of watercolors may be compared to letters and diaries of their time (1850-1850) while the oil paintings are the more formal memoirs and biographies. The loan show will last through Nov. 10.

Simplicity and sincerity, homespun beauty and decorative qualities, expert in irresistible appeal. These unsophisticated masterpieces thus offer a unique and intimate look at the way Americans lived when the nation was young.

Creators of the watercolors and pastels were usually full-time portrait painters, Pennsylvania German Fraktur artists or amateurs (of whom seminary schoolgirls were the most prolific). There was more paintings per capita done at that time than at any other period in the history of the country.

Demand for family likeness became so great that a new breed of self-taught, full time "primitives" arose to meet the need. Some of the portraits are embellished with jewelry cut out of gold paper.

The Pennsylvania German decorated manuscripts called "Frakturs" were documents commemorating special occasions: births and baptisms, deaths, merit awards for schoolchildren. Along with the

usual handwritten information were decorative motifs — birds, flowers, angels, hearts, geometric devices — filled in with a watercolor wash.

In contrast to the Fraktur artists and portraitists, the amateur watercolor painters were mostly schoolgirls and young men who turned to the newly-

available solid watercolors as a delightful accomplishment. Subject matter might be episodes from the Bible (the Prodigal Son in four episodes), depictions of national heroes (a jaunty George Washington of Lafayette on horseback), or a memorial picture dedicated to a deceased relative.

A MEDIUM common to the way of this period is the combination of plump and watery color. Pinpricking achieves a raised effect upon the surface of the paper, producing a textured surface resembling embroidery. A fine example in the show is "Pinprick Flowers in a Vase" done by an unknown artist about 1830.

The exhibition of American primitives, circulated by the American Federation of Arts, will be in Gallery 38 near the Art Institute's Woodward entrance. Museum hours are: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays; 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sunday.

'Hansel And Gretel' Opens Junior Concerts

A colorful, two-act opera based on the fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" will open the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's new season of Young People's Concerts Saturday, Oct. 19.

Humperdinck's classic children's opera will be staged by Detroit's Piccolo Opera Company. It will be performed in English, using a special adaptation prepared by Marjorie Gordon, the company's managing director, and James Limbacher.

Valter Poole will conduct. Performances will be given at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ford Auditorium.

An imaginative mixture of music and dialogue, the work will feature Faye Turner as Gretel and Leslie Eitzen as Hansel. Oleslie with leading roles are Imogene B. as Mother, Raymond Sharp as Father, Geraldine Montross as Sandman, and Marilyn Cottle as Witch.

Evelyn Orbach is stage director. Three more Young People's Concerts are planned for the season. The Detroit Severo Ballet Company will join the

Orchestra for Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" Suite Dec. 21. Conwell Carrington will narrate Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" Feb. 22. Cartoonist Stu Hamble will be featured April 5.

Season tickets for both the morning and the afternoon series are available at \$7.50 and may be obtained by calling the Symphony office, 981-0700. Tickets for individual performances are \$2.75 at Ford Auditorium Box Office.

Films Scheduled

Two French films directed by Alain Resnais will be shown at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 in the Rackham Memorial Auditorium, Detroit. The films, "Hiroshima Mon Amour," and "Entr'acte," are being sponsored by the University Center for Adult Education. Admission is \$1 with a reduced rate of 75 cents for students.

The Gourmet Adventures of

DICK BENSK

Lamb is a favorite of many people all over the world. In France, lamb is served rare, juicy and as a choice roast of beef would be in our country. However, American taste, lamb is most often cooked well done. One of the nice things about lamb in addition to its delicate flavor, is that almost every part of the lamb can be eaten. Nevertheless the same as for all meats, it should be cooked at low temperatures, whether being broiled, roasted or served in a curry. Lamb is delicious almost any way you prepare it, but once a year at a special occasion you should serve a superb crown roast just to keep your hand in for an important occasion dinner.

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HELPFUL HINT: Sprinkle lamb lightly with flour for golden fried potatoes.

Comic Team Classics Showing Set

Two Laurel and Hardy films are featured in this Sunday's (Oct. 13) Famous Early Movie Series at Greenfield Village.

"Towed in a Hole" and "Way out West" will be shown at 2 and 4 p.m. in the Henry Ford Museum.

Themes of the program is "Laurel and Hardy—The Talkies." Laurel and Hardy are almost alone among the great comedians of the silent era who made the difficult transition to sound movies. The team's enduring popularity has been confirmed by the recent, successful revival of the films on television.

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