

Sweet Adelines lead concert parade of music

"I Love a Parade," a barbershop concert presented by Spirit of Detroit Chapter of Sweet Adelines International, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22-23, at Mercy High School at 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Tickets — \$10 for adults and \$8 on Friday for students and seniors — are available by calling 584-0620, 427-7142 or 534-4468. Tickets will be sold at the door while the supply lasts.

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

IF YOU'RE looking for a great escape this weekend, you needn't go any further than Farmington Hills. Mercy High School, where the Spirit of Detroit Chapter of Sweet Adelines International will perform in concert at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The award-winning Spirit of Detroit will present "I Love a Parade," featuring City Lights, a Detroit men's chorus which won its district championship after forming just seven months ago. City Lights is a member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America.

Founded in 1942, the Sweet Adelines boast 650 chapters in 12 countries. The organization is dedicated to the education and performance of four-part barbershop harmony. Winner of its last two regional contests, the 90-woman Spirit of Detroit chorus is preparing for world competition next year.

Also on the marquee are four award-winning quartets — Swing Street, which last month won the 1991-92 international championship;

1991 regional champion "Accolade," district finalist "Great Escape," and "Gang Busters," third-place district finalist. Swing Street and Accolade are women's quartets. Great Escape and Gang Busters are men's.

CONCERT-GOERS will be treated to a wide variety of music, said Spirit of Detroit Director Sally Whitledge, whose husband Bob heads up City Lights.

"The show is called, 'I Love a Parade,'" she said, "but actually, there will be little in the way of parade music. Mostly it will be a parade of champions."

"Normally, we hire quartets that have achieved a high level in competition. However, this year we are very fortunate in that both of our choruses as well as our quartets have achieved all of these things. We're proud to be able to showcase

the folks in our chapters."

The choruses will perform choreographed music from "Broadway Shows," currently popular music, and songs from Rodgers and Hart, as well as music of the day when barbershop became popular at the turn of the century," Whitledge said.

A Spirit of Detroit-City Lights doct entitled "Will I Ever Tell You" and "Lida Rose" popularized in the movie "The Music Man" should bring the house down.

While the majority of Spirit of Detroit and City Lights members hail from 45 communities throughout metropolitan Detroit including those in the Observer & Eccentric coverage area, some travel from as far away as Toledo, Saginaw and Bay City for weekly rehearsals and shows. "We have one young lady who drives 100 miles one way," said

Whitledge, who like her husband has a national quartet championship to her credit.

Throughout the year, the non-profit Spirit of Detroit and City Lights perform for charities, hospitals and hospices, nursing homes, festivals and community events as well as private functions. The barbershoppers stage one major concert annually to help defray costs.

"It's a chance to showcase our choruses, and at the same time help support our hobby. Proceeds go to cover expenses such as costumes, music, coaching, directors' fees and travel expenses, which as you might imagine are quite expensive," said Whitledge.

BOB WHITLEDGE, retired after 35 years with Detroit Edison, formed City Lights, which will represent its district in international

competition in July in New Orleans.

The chorus is aptly named, as it practices at Edison headquarters on Third Avenue in downtown Detroit. "One of our theme songs for both choruses is Channel 7's 'Stand Up and Tell Them You're from Detroit,'" said Bob Whitledge, who like his wife has 30 years' experience in barbershop. "Sally arranged that for Spirit of Detroit, and we adapted it for the men's chorus."

A sell out for "I Love a Parade" is expected, and seating is first-come, first-served. So come early, forget all your troubles and let them entertain you.

The Spirit of Detroit chapter rehearses 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the VFW hall at Inkster and 194th in Redford Township. New members welcome, call 534-4468 for information.

Southfield Symphony opens season with Beethoven



Violinist Geoffrey Applegate performs at an all-Beethoven program hosted by the Southfield Symphony Orchestra, Sunday, Nov. 24.

The Southfield Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Douglas Blanchi will open its season with the music of Beethoven, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, at Southfield High School's auditorium, Lahar Road and Ten Mile Road. Tickets are \$8 and \$5 for seniors and students.

The program includes Symphony No. 3, the Eroica and Beethoven's Triple Concerto performed by Geoffrey Applegate, violin, Marcy Chanteaux, cello, and Vladislav Kovalsky, piano.

Applegate was appointed Principal Second Violinist of the DSO in 1986. At the age of 12, he soloed with the San Diego Symphony. He has appeared with trios and quartets in Europe and Brazil, and was a featured artist at a musical festival in Hawaii in 1989.

Chanteaux is assistant principal cellist with the DSO. She began

studying piano at the age of 4 and the cello at 10. She studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and began her career with the National Symphony in Washington, D.C. She succeeded Vladimir Kater as pianist for the DSO and later joined the cello section.

Kovalsky was born in eastern Russia to a father who is a cellist and a

mother who is a choreographer. He began piano studies at age 6 and soon began accompanying his father. When Kovalsky was 12, his family moved to Siberia where he continued to study at the Omsk Conservatory, an old established institute founded in Imperial Russia. After graduation in 1971, he taught and performed in Leningrad.

He emigrated to the United States

in 1980. He has performed in recitals and chamber music concerts in the United States and Europe. In 1988, he made his first concert tour in Japan.

Upcoming concerts include: Nutcracker Ballet featuring the Contemporary Civic Ballet Company, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at Birmingham Groves High School, choral con-

cert featuring the Ford Motor Chorus, 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Special "Pops" Concert, 3 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at the Southfield Pavilion, and Magic of Mozart, 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Southfield High School. All Tschakowski, 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3, Southfield High School.

For information, call 354-4172.

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