

ON THE MARQUEE

Musica Viva!

Ara Berberian, basso with Arthur Greene, piano; Hong Mei Xiao, viola; Gina Gerova-Ortega, flute; Randall Hawes, trombone; Walter Howrunt, pianist/composer, 8 p.m. Friday, May 15, at Orchestra Hall, 2711 Woodward, Detroit. For tickets, call 833-3709 or 569-3105.

Group du Jour

Final concert of season, 7 p.m. chamber music, 8 p.m. symphony performance, 7 p.m. Friday, May 15, at Mercy Conference Center, 28000 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call 478-2075 for tickets.

Chamber winds

Detroit Chamber Winds closes its 10th anniversary season, 8 p.m. Friday, May 15, at Christ Church Cranbrook with "Brassissimo" featuring the brass choir. For tickets, call 551-8DCW.

Country music

Diamond Rio, named Group of the Year at the 1992 Academy of Country Music Awards, performs 8 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at Center Stage, 39940 Ford Road, Canton Township. Ford Road exit off of 275 then 1/2 mile east. Tickets available at all TicketMaster locations, Center Stage, or may be charged by phone at 645-0466.

Birmingham band

Birmingham Concert Band presents a spring concert, "Around the World in 60 minutes (more or less)" 3 p.m. Sunday, May 17, in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, 1609 W. Maple Road in Birmingham. The program ranges from Verdi to Geršwin, symphony to jazz. Guest conductor, Harold Arnoldi conductor of bands at Wayne State University. A donation of \$3 adults, \$2 students is suggested to further the work of the band.



Harold Arnoldi

Kaleidoscope Concerts

Kaleidoscope Concerts presents "Artful Strings," a colorful blend of strings, flute and piano featuring some of metro Detroit's finest musicians, 2:15 p.m. Sunday, May 17, in the ballroom of the Birmingham Community House, 380 South Bates. An afterglow will follow the concert. Tickets, \$11 and \$9 for students and senior citizens. Call 856-9299 or 856-0458.

The Mercyairees

Concert featuring Mercy High School vocal ensembles, Mercyairees, dance company, chamber orchestra, 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at the school, 11 Mile & Middlebelt. For information, call 476-3270.

Farmington band

Farmington Community Band opens its "Summer in the Park" series 8 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at Heritage Park. For information, call 476-5914 or 450-3412.

It's a lot of fun and a lot of work for amateur performers in Michigan Opera Theatre's presentation of "Samson and Delilah."



Michigan Opera Theatre presents "Samson & Delilah" May 16, 20, 23 at Music Temple in Detroit. For times and tickets, call 874-SING.

By BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Nikki Fayne most certainly will have opening night jitters when she takes the stage in Michigan Opera Theatre's production of "Samson and Delilah." Haven't heard of her? Can't find her name on the playbill?

That's because she's not listed. She's not even an opera singer. She's not a super star. She is a supernumerary.

Fayne, a 16-year-old junior at North Farmington High School, is one of the many unknowns who populate the Music Temple stage in Michigan Opera Theatre productions. Some, like Fayne, are interested in an acting or singing career. But most perform as amateurs in the true sense — for the love of it.

"I want to be an actress," she said. "Anything you can do to gain experience will help."

Shawn McIntyre, an administrator of a computer sales firm, would also like to further her part-time dancing career.

"I had heard through friends about it," she said. "I knew my dance background would be a plus for some parts."

Others, who have long given up on any dreams of an acting or singing career, are still susceptible to the allure of the stage.

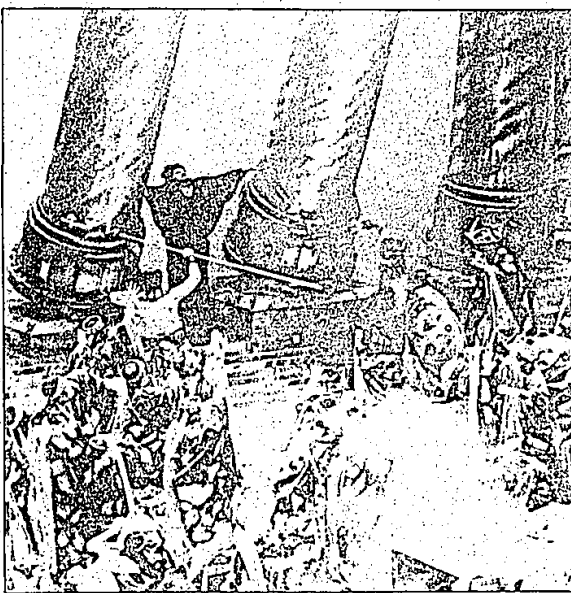
"I had performed in some high school productions and I liked being on stage again and being part of the action," said Jim Szalony, a travel agent who lives in Farmington.

Szalony, who had not seen an opera before becoming a super, said his roommate, a member of the MOT chorus, talked him into trying the Music Temple. He now considers himself a fan.

"Unfortunately, when you're a super, you don't get to see the opera," he said. "I can see one and three of 'Romeo and Juliet'."

At Wisniewski, a systems analyst for Ford Motor Co. from West Bloomfield, had not attended an opera before becoming a super along with his wife Sally.

"It is a whole lot different than what



Opera epic: The blind Samson destroys the Philistine. Tem de of Dagon in the climactic final moments of Michigan Opera Theatre's production of "Samson and Delilah."

I'd thought," said Wisniewski. "I thought it was a bunch of people yelling at the top of their lungs. But when you see the principals warming up and performing on stage, it's incredible."

Supers can play almost any part in an opera, depending on the director's needs. MOT's production of "Samson and Delilah" requires eight body builders. "Candide" used supers to portray animals, the ever popular "Aida" uses large numbers of supers, while some operas use none at all.

Some of the parts require certain skills. "I said, 'Dance! MOT produces a coordinator. We have a large group of supers that we've used for many years. They actually call me.'"

The pay of \$7 per performance is not what keeps supers coming back.

"People just do it for the fun of it," Darsey said.

That describes many supers, who like Ann Pericic of Birmingham, jumped

at the chance to perform.

"I've always loved opera," said the 28-year-old custom clothier. "I was talking to one of the performers about singing and decided I'd like to be a super. I had a wonderful time. Listening to the singers practice's great, even during rehearsals when they warm up their voices. You can tell that it takes so much training to sing like that."

Pericic's versatility was put to the test in "Candide" where she played two roles — a sheep and a Spanish dancer. "I considered it to be a privilege," she said. "Besides, I got free tickets for friends."

But, like the professional performers, stage hands and directors, they work with supers have to put in the hours. There can be 10 or more three-hour rehearsals for just three performances.

Wisniewski, said after long hours of practice, supers know their parts by heart, but there is still the occasional

faux pas.

"You're working with the director," Wisniewski said. "If you make a mistake, nobody knows except you and him."

Well, usually.

In Carmen, one of the Spanish dancers, tripped, going off the stage. Wisniewski said, "It was just on the corner of the stage. He was almost off, but it was comical."

"The rehearsals are necessary, if only because of the number of people needed to bring off a performance."

"I never realized how many people it took to put something like that on," said Szalony.

"We'd been in community theater productions before," Wisniewski said. "But that was small scale. It takes so many different people."

When Fayne takes the stage as Delilah's attendant Saturday night, she might be nervous, but she's bound to have a super time.

BBSO to salute freedom in Eastern Europe

Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony performs 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at Temple Beth El, 14 Mile & Telegraph Roads. For tickets, call 645-2276. Tickets also available at the door the night of the performance.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra and conductor Felix Resnick close the 1991-92 season with a salute to "Eastern European Freedom" on May 17.

This unusual concert celebrates the

newly gained freedom of Poland, Russia, Hungary, and Estonia.

Dmitri Shostakovich's "Festival Overture" begins the program and represents Russia. Representing Poland, in his second appearance with the BBSO, pianist Leszek Bartkiewicz will perform Chopin's "Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor." This composition was the last piece Bartkiewicz performed before he left Poland.

"Dances of Galanin" by Zoltan Kodaly symbolizes the country of Hungary.

And a seldom heard composition by Estonian-born Edward Tuhin, Symphony No. 4 in A Major, "Sinfonia Jitro," is also programmed.

This work, as the subtitle suggests, is very lyrical, almost pastoral in its overall feeling. The music was composed in 1943 when Estonia was occupied by the Germans, and the score was played in a safe within the Estonian Broadcasting Co. on the fourth floor of the Estonia Theatre in Tallin.

On March 6, 1944, Tallin was

home of the Soviet Air Force. The Estonia Theatre was hit, and the rare containing the only copy of the symphony fell from the fourth floor of the burning building all the way to the cellar, but the music, although slightly burned, was still intact for others to enjoy.

The fund-raising project, "A Raffle of Note," will be completed the night of the concert with the drawing of over 40 prizes ranging from weekend trips to tickets to BBSO's 1992-93 season.

ODYSSEY TO THE WORLD OF WHALES

Board your elegant Replica
furnish the ultimate voyage
for U.S. or 2 night adventures
on the historic tall ship
steeped in breathtaking
waters.

From the magnificent "Iron Horse"
through the International
Seawall back to the
suggestive Seagulls (and
steeped in breathtaking
waters).

STEAMBOAT NOW BOOKING

England, Ontario
1-800-267-7848

COME ALONG
AND
SING
YOUR CARES AWAY!

MEN WHO LOVE TO SING:
DETROIT-OAKLAND CHAPTER
SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ENLIGHTENMENT
OF BARBERSHIP QUARTERS SINGING IN AMERICA INC.

INVITES YOU TO
MONDAY, MAY 18, 9-10:30 p.m.
at the University Church
Music at Prayer
Birmingham, MI
Takes place at the University Church

**A MUSICAL
FUN NIGHT**

CALL: BOB SILLMAN 569-7517 (day night) for details.

Auburn Hills Hilton Suites
Novi Hilton
Detroit Metropolitan Airport Hilton Suites
Southfield Hilton Garden Inn

79* Across from the Sheraton
65* 1/2 mile at 2 Mile Road
79* 1/2 mile from the Sheraton
49* 1/2 mile from the Sheraton

For the perfect Detroit weekend,
follow these simple directions.

Signs say you're headed for a great weekend at your choice of Detroit area Hiltons, where BounceBack Weekend® rates start Thursday with a Saturday stay! At Hilton Suites, the BounceBack rate includes a complimentary prepared-to-order breakfast and two-hour evening beverage reception. At Novi Hilton and Hilton Garden Inn, the rate includes free continental breakfast. For reservations and information, call 1-800-HILTONS.



*Includes taxes, fees, and other charges. **Subject to change without notice. ***Subject to change without notice. ****Subject to change without notice. *****Subject to change without notice.