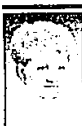


Mitzi Gaynor still charming after all these years



MARY JANE DOERR

Chuckling, Gaynor returned to our telephone conversation from her Los Angeles home as naturally as Nollie Forbush handled her colonial in "South Pacific." As GI, the bright-eyed dancer/singer has lost none of the enthusiastic charm that has kept her in front of the lights since she first danced for Cole Porter when she was 16 years old.

"I hadn't had enough experience to be scared," said Gaynor who au-

ditioned for Porter at his Mockingbird home in L.A. "What did I know about silver framed pictures of the King of England. All I wanted was a Coke with two cherries and a chance to sing 'You're the top.'"

When the star starts asking the questions, you know their friendliness is real. I am not Bing Crosby, Gene Kelly, Joshua Logan or Richard Rodgers or any of the famous stars with whom Gaynor has worked, but during our conversa-

tion, Gaynor found out almost as much about life in Michigan as I did about touring with super duper Las Vegas stage shows.

On June 30, the audience at Northland Theatre, on J.L. Hudson Drive near the Plaza (former Sheraton) Hotel in Southfield, had the opportunity to ask Gaynor questions when she introduced the 1955 movie classic "Guys and Dolls" for Continental Cablevision and the American Movie Classics as the spoken-

woman for the American Movie Classics channel.

As Nellie Forbush in 1955, then 25 year old Gaynor made her name in musical theater history. When that career in the movies tapered off after "For Love or Money" in 1963, she began her Las Vegas shows, and has been on the road at least six months a year ever since, including several appearances at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. She is booked through 1993.

"I never saw the Fox when it wasn't bright and shiny," said Gaynor who grew up near Wayne State University between Second and Merrick in the 1930s.

The other phone rings again. "Jack says hi."

Jack Ban, Gaynor's husband of 37 years, is the talent scout she married in 1954 who rejuvenated her career at Paramount and other studios resulting in leads in films such as "Anything Goes" with Bing

Crosby, "Les Girls" with Gene Kelly, "Surprise Package," with Yul Brynner, and "We're Not Married," with Eddie Bracken and "The Joker is Wild" with Frank Sinatra.

What does Gaynor think of opera star Keri to Kenawa's version of that song on the newest release of "South Pacific?"

"She paid me a fantastic compliment when she said she modeled her style after my version in the movie."

Folk trio kicks off Troy summer concert series

By SANDY MERRITT
SPECIAL WRITER

No it's not golf. It's the first annual biweekly Summer Concerts at the Green series sponsored by the Troy Public Library 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Aug. 26.

The Felicity String Trio, consisting of two hammered dulcimers and one bass player, kicked off the first in the series of five outdoor concerts at the Troy Public Library 510 W. Big Beaver Road in Troy's Civic Center Complex.

Pat Tait of Redford played one of the two hammered dulcimers accompanied by her husband Jim on bass. Pat Mallis of Livonia played the second hammered dulcimer.

For anyone unfamiliar with a hammered dulcimer, it's a trapezoid-shaped stringed instrument that originated in the Middle East over 2,000 years ago. Wooden

hammers strike piano type strings creating sounds reminiscent of a harp.

Some people came to the concert because they were familiar with dulcimer music, others came to introduce their children to music. Like Diane Ives of Troy who brought her 2 and 5-year-old sons. She claimed she has no musical talent, but wants to expose her sons to music.

"I like dancing really pretty," said 4-year-old Sarah Rocheleau of

Troy. Her parents, Tim and Vickie Rocheleau, discovered the concert when exiting the library. Tim said he would come back after seeing how much his daughter enjoyed dancing to the melodic tunes.

When Pat Tait, a University of Michigan music graduate sang and played "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You," on the dulcimer, the crowd joined in singing along with her. Pretty soon someone yelled out a request for "Danny Boy." The group cooperated playing

it on the harp and dulcimer. The concert ended with a rousing medley saluting veterans of all the armed forces with songs like "Stars and Stripes Forever," and "Anchors Away."

Linda Morrow, the new assistant director of the Troy Library, said she wants the biweekly series of folk and ethnic music concerts to represent the diverse culture of Troy. The series is funded by a grant from the Oakland County Cultural Council and the Michigan Council for the

Arts and Cultural Affairs.

"I bring the kids and it's free, and they're exposed to music," said Ives. "If they get restless and want to leave, I don't feel bad about leaving."

The next scheduled concert 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, will feature Golden Rain Percussion, African and Mexican folk music with snare drums, maracas, timpani and traps.

For information, call 524-3438.



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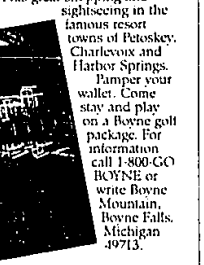
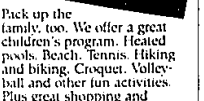
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UPCOMING THINGS TO DO

To get your announcements in the Upcoming entertainment calendar send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, The Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

CARILLON SERIES
The Christ Church Cranbrook Summer Carillon Recital Series opens its 64th season, 4 p.m. Saturday, July 4 with a special Independent Day concert. Phillip Burgess, carillonist and associate organist of Christ Church Cranbrook and artistic director for the series, and the Detroit Brass Society will perform a program of American patriotic, folk, and traditional favorites. At 4 p.m. Sunday, July 5, former Christ Church Cranbrook carillonist and associate organist Don Cook returns to perform a program which includes a range of traditional and

popular music. Christ Church Cranbrook is at the corner of Cranbrook and Lone Pine Roads, one mile west of Woodward in Bloomfield Hills. There is no charge for the concerts. For information, call 644-5210.

MEADOW BROOK
DSO performs with Mitch Miller 8 p.m. Thursday, July 2, and Saturday, July 4, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival on the campus of

Oakland University in Rochester Hills. The Drifters, The Platters, The Coasters, The Shirelles and The Crystals perform 8 p.m. Friday, July 3, fireworks to follow concert. John Lee Hooker and Robert Cray Band perform 8 p.m. Sunday, July 5, Arlo Guthrie and Pete Seeger, 8 p.m. Thursday, July 9. To charge tickets call 645-6666, for information, call 567-6000. Doors open 6 p.m.

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