

Symphony offers three holiday concerts

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Whether you're dreaming of a "White Christmas," and the sound of "Jingle Bells," or watching the "Nutcracker" duel the Mouse King, the Livonia Symphony Orchestra has the ticket this holiday season Dec. 4-5 in Churchill High School Auditorium, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia.

Three distinct performances promise one sure to please you and your family: 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, the LSO joins forces with Rose Marie Floyd's Contemporary Civic Ballet Company of Royal Oak to present Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" Ballet, the all-time favorite Christmas story celebrating the 100-year anniversary of its first performance.

"It's a tradition. Many people come every year, and it all started in 1892 at the St. Petersburg Opera House," said artistic director Floyd of Troy.

A Children's Holiday Concert with Santa Claus, and the Ward Presbyterian Church Chancel Bell Ringers under Marion Mans-

field starts at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," a Celebration of Carols, Hanukkah Celebration of Jewish Melodies, and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from the "Messiah" along with excerpts from "The Nutcracker" promise to delight the kid in everyone.

Showtime for the Holiday Pops concert with guest artists Ward Presbyterian Church Chamber Choir under director Jerry Smith, and Chancel Bell Ringers is 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. Jewish melodies, and Christmas carols including "Silver Bells" will ring through the air along with Vivaldi's "Gloria," and the "Hallelujah Chorus."

Tickets are \$10, seniors/students \$6, children 15 and under \$3 at the Livonia Civic Center Library, Farmington and Five Mile, Madonna University, Schoolcraft and Levan, Hammell Music, 15630 Middlebelt, and before the concert at the door. Call the symphony office 12-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at 421-1111, or the 24-hour hot line 458-6575.

The Livonia Symphony is also hosting a Wassail Dinner featuring the Twelfth Night Singers, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19 at Madonna University, 14221 Levan, Livonia. Tickets \$30 per person, reserved seating. Call 691-5044.

On Dec. 4, Kathleen Tracey and Jeffrey Edwards join the performance in the principle roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier, courtesy of the New York City Ballet.

"We're thrilled to have two dancers from the New York City Ballet with us," Floyd said.

Tracey joined the New York City company in 1987. A Colorado native, she initially studied at the Ballet Theatre of Pueblo. In 1983 she attended a summer course at the New York company's School of American Ballet, entering the regular program on scholarship in 1984. She has toured extensively with the New York City Ballet and on independent tours of Italy, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

In 1979, Edwards attended a summer session of the School of American Ballet after studying dance from the age of 11 in Penn-

sylvania. He continued studies there on a scholarship that fell. He has studied with former ballet master and teacher of the Bolshoi Ballet Mansur Kamaletidov. He also studied at the San Francisco and Boston Ballet Schools.

He was apprenticed to the New York City Ballet in 1983, and joined the corps de ballet in 1984. Promoted to the rank of soloist in 1989, his principal roles include George Balanchine's "The Four Temperaments" (Melancholic); "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Oberon) and Jerome Robbins' "Afternoon of a Faun" and "Opus 19: The Dreamer."

He originated roles in Peter Martins' "Les Gentilhommes," and William Forsythe's "Behind the Chino Dogs."

Floyd founded the Contemporary Civic Ballet Company in 1956. Members hail from Rochester to Detroit. As a ballet teacher, Floyd holds a Maestro Cecchetti Diploma, the highest certificate in the Cecchetti Society, a branch of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance in England.

She is a permanent examiner, past president and member of the National Board of the Cecchetti Council of America.

Floyd is in the final stages of co-producing a documentary on the life and teaching methods of Enrico Cecchetti with Eva Powers of Bloomfield Hills.



Blackstone on stage: Harry Blackstone brings his magic for kids of all ages to the George Burns Theatre in Livonia Dec. 11-13.

Blackstone brings magic

Harry Blackstone brings his magic for kids of all ages to the George Burns Theatre in Livonia Dec. 11-13.

For ticket information call Bonnie Jurcin at 261-2161. The Y is at 14255 Stark, just north of Schoolcraft. Invest In Youth is a fund that supports youth programs at the Y. Any child who needs financial assistance is aided by the fund. Tickets for other Blackstone shows are available at the theater box office, by telephone 422-8200 or at TicketMaster outlets.

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