

Konikow from page 1D

quite an audience (for chamber music) following his own excitement."

Power of music

"Konikow's warm, friendly manner, his exuberance about the arts and what they can do for people."

"As you go along in music you become a little more sophisticated," he said.

"When you listen to music, the more familiar you are (with a work) the better chance you have to really understand it and enjoy it."

"A live performance, especially with the intimacy of a chamber group, adds the audience to the musicians. A trio or quartet is really a trio or quartet plus one: the audience, Konikow said."

Artistic action

Konikow is the second president in the Chamber Music Society's 49-year history. When he became president in 1966, "I immersed myself in it 100 percent." He was eager to learn all he could, as when he asked a friend to help him understand Bartok's music.

"An impresario has his hand in many pockets," Konikow may be found in any and every aspect of the chamber society, including planning a season of balanced programs, meeting artists and getting pianos tuned.

"There's no fooling around — except when I come to (rehearsals)."

Okun told about how Konikow introduced a performance by the Colorado Quartet a few years ago. Because of bad weather, the four women's luggage didn't arrive and

they had to play in their jeans and casual shirts.

"They came on stage, pulled up a chair, sat back, took off his shoes and said, 'We're going to be a little bit more informal,'" Okun said.

When flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal came to town to play with the DSO, Konikow took him to Orchestra Hall. Rampal clapped his hands to test the acoustics in the empty hall and was pleased, but then played the flute at Konikow's insistence. The musician was so enraptured with the hall — as many artists are — that he told Konikow, "I'd be happy to play for you." In response, Konikow pulled a contract from his pocket.

Upbeat message

Schoolchildren and disabled adults are often brought to the chamber concerts. Some artists talk to youngsters after the performance, to "break down the barrier of the stage," Konikow said.

"Our goal really is to introduce chamber music to more and more people."

"I also try whenever possible to introduce new contemporary, a new type of music."

Konikow is rabid about Orchestra Hall ("the best of anywhere") and the all-volunteer CMSD.

"I'm very optimistic about the Chamber Music Society because of the organizing ability of the board chairman (Luis Bezon) and the volunteers and the people on our board now. They put in a lot of time."

Making friends

Konikow has made many friends through his chamber society work, including such greats as Isaac Stern and Itzhak Perlman.

"I love people. When (musicians) come in... we meet them

with open arms at the airport... we meet their needs."

Konikow first met famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma when the musician was just a youngster and just starting out.

"He and I got to be... good friends. We're like blood brothers."

When pianist Alicia de Larrocha was in the area, Konikow was called at his dental office and told she wanted to rehearse. He was busy with patients, so his wife took de Larrocha to a friend's house to practice. When he came home, the pianist was sitting there.

To her greeting, "You must be Dr. Konikow," he replied, "Let's cut out all the formal stuff." After some thought, he declared he would call her "Donya," which made her laugh because it means "the lady of the house."

Right before de Larrocha went on stage, Konikow gave her a bear hug and said, "Give 'em hell, Donya."

"She walked out on stage with a smile on her face."

When Konikow praised a musician's performance, the artist replied, "I was playing it for you. It had to be good."

Musical background

At the arts awards in Detroit, a baby photo of Konikow was shown and he joked that his love of music began at that time. His birth in February 1924 came as his parents were about to attend a

Caruso concert at Orchestra Hall. "I had a great family upbringing — warm, with music."

Music was important to the family. Konikow's parents played old records of Toscanini and opera stars and took the children to concerts, and Konikow's father sang operas to them. After his piano lessons, Konikow would be taken to a brown bag lunch at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Konikow's older brother earned the first doctor of musicology and bachelor of music degrees given in the music department at Wayne State University.

Love of the arts is strong in Konikow's current family. His wife, Lenore (Lindy), has been a volunteer docent at the DIA for 30 years. Daughter Lisa is manager of the Kocchipli Gallery. Another daughter, Kim, will be executive director of the Minnesota Dance Alliance group beginning in February.

As a dentist, Konikow has worked with disabled patients. He is past president of the Academy of Dentistry for the Handicapped, and an active member of the cleft palate team at Sinai Hospital.

"After you live in a community, if you're able to you have to give something back."

"I'm a pretty lucky man. I'm in a vocation that I love. I also have a dear, dear family, the love is reciprocated."

Music is important to Konikow every day.

Historical society to meet

The Oakland County Historical Society will host its 119th annual meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Oakland Avenue Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Pontiac.

The church is at 404 Oakland Ave., directly across the street

from the historical society's headquarters.

The meeting will feature the election of officers, the president's address, and the distribution of the 1992 annual report to the Board of Directors. Light refreshments will be served.

Exhibit from page 1D

room, complete with furniture and rugs.

Margaret Windeknecht of Rochester, one of the jurors for this show, made a small fiber map of Oceana County called "The Promised Land."

"I think it's very intimate," Windeknecht said of the art of weaving.

The guild tries to have a show every other year, said the award-winning weaver, instructor and author. Technical construction is one of the things jurors look for in selecting pieces.

Other jurors for the exhibit were June Grossbart, weaver and retired art and art history professor at Wayne State University; and Jean Brudzinski of Rochester, an award-winning artist who has weavings in private and corporate collections nationally and internationally.

The Michigan Weavers Guild was organized in 1947 by seven handweavers from southeast Michigan. It has expanded to more than 90 members from Michigan and Ontario, including virtually all of the fiber artists. Members participate in shows, study groups and community projects.

The guild will make and donate freemium baskets for a hospice care fund-raiser in April.

A weavers workshop will take place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 24-27 at the BBAA. The workshop will be conducted by internationally recognized fiber artist Virginia Davis, and will deal with contemporary ikat and other methods of dyeing warp and weft. Call the BBAA for more information.

Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Call 644-0866.

Design center selling samples

Hundreds of floor sample clearance items from the showrooms of the Michigan Design Center in Troy will be on sale to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17.

Consumers will find savings of 60 to 70 percent and more off showroom list prices. MDC is at 1700 Stutz, north off Maple between Crooks and Coolidge. Call 649-4770.

The admission charge is \$3, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit the Coalition On Temporary Shelter. COTS is the largest shelter for homeless men, women and children in Michigan. In 1991, COTS provided shelter, food and clothing services to 6,575 people.

MDC, the resource marketplace for the interior design profession, houses 40 showrooms offering the finest interior furnishings from the top names in the business. Normally open to the trade only, MDC will consolidate all clearance items into four shopping areas that will be open to the public for this special sale. Showrooms will be closed, but lighted for window viewing.

All merchandise will be sold as is, and all sales are final. Payment must be made by cash or check for take with items; other delivery arrangements must be made with the showrooms at the consumer's expense. Delivery must be accepted within 10 days.

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DETROIT SAVINGS BANK	961-7600										
OMEGA MORTGAGE CORP.	471-6000/471-6000										
PACIFIC WORLD MORTGAGE	642-1030										
FIRST ALLIANCE MORTGAGE CORP.	433-9626										
PRUDENTIAL MORTGAGE, INC.	681-6410										
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