

LSO concert to feature jazz flutist

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Internationally known jazz flutist Alexander Zonjic will surely set the audience afire when he joins the Livonia Symphony Orchestra to perform a kaleidoscope of musical styles in the final concert of the 1992-93 season at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 1 at Church Hill High School auditorium, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia.

Tickets are \$10; seniors and students, \$6; and children age 15 and under \$3. Tickets are available at the Livonia Civic Center Library, Farmington at Five Mile; Madonna University, Schoolcraft at Levan; Hammill Music, 15630 Middlebelt; and before the concert at the door. Call the symphony office noon to 4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at 421-1111, or the 24-hour hotline, 468-6676, for ticket information.

"Zonjic's a fantastic musician. It's rare that someone like Zonjic and Friends appear with a symphony orchestra," said LSO conductor and music director Francesco DiBlasi.

"I was worried because he works with 110 volts, so I asked him if he'd overpower the orchestra. He assured me there was nothing to worry about because these are all special arrangements of his."

Aeron La Vere, first-place instrumentalist winner in the 16th annual LSO Young Artists Competition held in January, will perform the second and third movements of Grandahl's "Concerto for Trombone."

"Euryanthe Overture" by von Weber opens the program, followed by Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F major" featuring LSO concertmaster Julia Kurtyka; Robynn Rhodes, flute; Kristen Williams, oboe; and Brian Moon, trumpet. Zonjic's up next with Telemann's "Suite in A minor for Flute and Strings."

"It's a popular flute piece for strings and orchestra," Zonjic

said, "a chamber piece with a lot of fun and also very pretty dialogue written in sweet form from dance sounding to beautiful sounding. It's an accessible piece for the audience. It showcases the orchestra, and it's melodic."

Around the world and around the states, Zonjic has performed jazz to enthusiastic audiences and received rave reviews. His technical proficiency and remarkable agility on flute will leave no doubt of his ability to switch from jazz to classical, and back again.

After Brahms' "Hungarian Dances Nos. 5 and 6," guest conducted by Volodymyr Chesniuk, and a brief intermission, the two-time Motor City Music Awards winner for individual jazz performer is joined onstage by members of his ensemble.

Alexander Zonjic and Friends includes Mike Balos, piano; Nathan Brown, bass; Danny Cox, drums and percussion, and Lorenzo Brown, spoons.

"Together with the LSO, they will be one of the second half of the program with the universal jazz standard written in 1956 by Paul Desmond for the Dave Brubeck Quartet, "Take Five." Chick Corea's "Spain" follows, with the hauntingly beautiful and sensitive as-yet-unreleased work has a tentative date set for August of this year.

Zonjic has spent the last year putting finishing touches on a new record featuring guest artists Bob James and Kirk Whalum. The as-yet-unreleased work has a tentative date set for August of this year.

To date Zonjic has six albums to his credit: the 1978 release that started it all, "Alexander Zonjic"; "Romance with You"; "Elegant Evening"; "When Is It Real?"; "Neon"; and the all-time best seller, "The Classical Album," with Detroit Symphony Orchestra principal flutist Ervin Monroe.

Between regular club dates and major festivals, Zonjic in the last 12 months has played a lot of



Jazz concert: Alexander Zonjic and friends will join the Livonia Symphony for a concert on May 1.

citals with Monroe, classically affecting the outcome of his second album for Warner Bros.

"It's a real exciting project. The music's a marriage of sorts with some semi-classical pieces," Zonjic said.

Born in Windsor, Zonjic picked up his first flute at age 21. He entered the Detroit music scene more than 15 years ago, after earning a bachelor of music degree in flute performance at the University of Windsor.

He has performed at the Montreaux Detroit Jazz Festival, Atlanta Jazz Festival, Orlando Jazz Festival, and Kool Jazz Festivals in Hampton, Virginia, New York, Los Angeles and Detroit.

Zonjic, who has performed in England, Mexico and Japan as well as other locations, continues

to tour with keyboard artist Bob James, among other notables. He said he looks forward to Saturday night's performance with the LSO.

"As a whole, most contemporary jazz musicians don't have a lot of contact with symphony orchestras or the opportunity to play with strings or to interact with a conductor. It's a totally different challenge for us," Zonjic said. "It'll be a real enjoyable evening. It's exciting just for its uniqueness. It's not often the audience gets to hear me play a legitimate classical piece with orchestra."

Linda Chomin of Canton Township is a free-lance writer who specializes in the arts and classical music.

Midwest dancers present 'Springfest'

Midwest Dance Theatre will present "Springfest," an afternoon of dance and fun 3 p.m. Sunday, May 2, at Mercy High School, 29300 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are adults, \$7, students and senior citizens \$5, with a 10 percent discount for groups of 10 or more. For ticket information, call 669-9444.

The performance will include several new works by company artistic director Evelyn Kresson and Lisa Nowak founder and former artistic director of Harbinger Dance Company.

With a special emphasis on Mother's Day, the afternoon will offer an opportunity to buy a gift for your special person from the company's boutique, and for children the fun of making their own Mother's Day card, a visit with Gumdrop and Chimples the clowns and more.

Dena Brown, an honor roll



Dena Brown

student at Redford Union is one of the performers. She participates in many school clubs and has been studying dance for the past six years. She plans to attend Eastern Michigan University in the fall and will study elementary education and continue her dance.

Local actor stars in musical

Rick Atkins of Garden City portrays "Jesus" in the Huron Civic Theatre production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays, April 23, 24, 25, 30, May 1 and 2.

The theater is 10 minutes south

of Metro Airport at 32044 Huron River Drive in New Boston. Tickets are \$9 adults, senior citizens and students \$8. Call 782-6380 for information.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" features music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice.



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