

ENTERTAINMENT

ON THE MARQUEE

'Funny Girl'

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook will present "Funny Girl," in the recently renovated outdoor Greek Theatre, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, June 4 through June 19. Tickets \$10, students, \$8. Call 644-0527.

'Alice in Wonderland'

West Bloomfield Youththeatre announces auditions for "Alice in Wonderland," 4-8 p.m. Friday, June 4 and 4-8 p.m. Sunday, June 6 at Church of Our Savior, 5555 Middlebelt. Children ages 6 to 18 are welcome, regardless of experience, and must come prepared to sing. Registration is \$30 for the first child, and \$10 for every subsequent child. Rehearsals begin June 16 at Early Elementary School. For information, call 1 (800) 824-8314.

La Casa

Mark Germino returns to La Casa with special guest Cadillac Holmes 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 11 at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward. Advance tickets \$10 each, tickets at the door, \$12. For information, call 646-4950.

Irish harp

Colmearach — Ann and Charlie Heymann will present a benefit concert featuring ancient Irish harp, wooden flute, tin whistles, bodhran (Irish drum), concertinas, guitar and button accordion in a contemporary perspective 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 9 at the Wallace F. Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College, 27055 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Admission \$8 general, \$5 students with ID available through the OCC business office 471-7515. The performance is a benefit in support of WORR 90.3 FM student-run community radio from OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus. Doors open 7:30 p.m. For information, call WORR 471-7718.

Youth theater

Mama Mia Restaurant and Lounge, 9361 Cooley Lake Road, Commerce Township, with Tedd E. Bear Productions (a subsidiary of Nancy Gurwin Productions) announces a new lunch theater with the Youth Theatre Production of the musical "Beauty and the Beast," opening noon, Saturday, June 5 through June 25. Lunch served at noon followed by show at 1 p.m. Tickets \$12.50 a person. Call 363-1635.

Kids Koncert

The Southfield Parks and Recreation Cultural Arts Division will present Maureen Schilfman and her mischievous puppet partner the kazoo-playing Coco, 1:30-2:15 p.m. Saturday, June 12 in Room 115 of the Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield. Admission, \$3 per person, \$2.50 for groups of 10 or more. Call 354-4717.

Brothers 'make their own kind of music'



Some brothers play golf together, the Forbes Brothers play music, write songs, co-own and manage Mr. B's Food & Spirits in Troy.

BY TOM MULLIGAN
SPECIAL WRITER

The Forbes Brothers are unusual. For one thing, they're not full-time musicians. They co-own and manage Mr. B's Food & Spirits, a successful bar-restaurant at 3946 Rochester Road, Troy, 689-6070.

Unlike most other local acts, they don't travel from place to place playing for whomever will give them a job. They play at their own place in the "Sunday Night Jam," a weekly jam session that begins Sundays at 9 p.m. Musicians drop in and play a spot. Jam sessions are dominated by the Forbes Brothers and their friends including J.C. Whitlaw, formerly the locally acclaimed group Ash Can Van Gough.

That suits Dennis or "Denny," 43, and Scott Forbes, 39, just fine. They've played and written songs together since the sixth grade, and in various local venues for over 20 years, including "a zillion garage bands," laughs Scott.

They've also run their own recording studio Ambience Recordings in Southfield, and written commercial jingles including regional ads for Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Denny did engineering for several Bob Seger albums dating back to 1979.

Besides Seger, they have worked with such local rock legends as Mitch

Ryder and Marshall Crenshaw. Ryder even plays at Mr. B's occasionally. A more frequent visitor is Johnny B, former drummer of the Rockets who likens the Forbes Brothers' music to a couple of hot country stars.

"As song writers, they're hot on the heels of Garth Brooks and Billy Ray Cyrus. Just add a rocking chair and chewing tobacco and you got it."

One might wonder why a couple of guys who have surrounded themselves with rock legends are playing country music.

It's not such a radical departure from their typical sound, said Denny. "We've always leaned toward the mellow stuff. Besides the stuff that's on country radio now sounds like a lot of stuff that was on rock radio in the 1970s," he adds.

Their set list is comprised almost exclusively of their own material. The Forbes Brothers have been writing together throughout their musical career, and dream of a record contract. "We've written literally hundreds of songs together over the years," said Denny.

Between running Mr. B's, writing songs, and playing at the Sunday Night Jam, one would think their schedule would be full. But Scott has a concern of his own on the side for which he's received national acclaim — the TIPS program.

TIPS stands for Training Interv-



Musical duo: The Forbes Brothers, Dennis (left) and Scott have played music and written songs together since sixth grade.

tion in the Procedures of Serving alcohol. The program advises any establishment that serves liquor about liability, how to deal with intoxicated patrons, and how to cut them off.

Forbes who runs the TIPS program which his wife Patty, has earned the praise of police departments and has been profiled locally in newspapers, and nationally on TV and radio.

"I'm proud of it," said Scott. "We're all over the country with it, in all 50 states. We're one of four pioneers of the program nationwide."

With running Mr. B's and the TIPS program, the Forbes Brothers bristle at the suggestion that their

music is a hobby.

"Music has always flowed into our life," said Denny. "There was always music in our house."

Scott agrees. "You can't really call our music a hobby," he said. "We do it as an outlet. Some guys have golf. We have our music."

Despite the analogy, the Forbes Brothers clearly have their eye on the big time. They say they've made demos over the years, and received some interest from record companies, but they've never managed to land a contract.

Catch the stars at free summer concerts

Dust off your lawn chairs, and reserve these dates to enjoy music under the stars at these free concerts in Observer & Eccentric communities.

■ Southfield's Summer Concert Series including the Gazebo Concerts on Wednesday nights and Concerts in the Park on Sundays start Wednesday, June 23, and run through Sunday, Aug. 29.

The Gazebo Concerts take place 7 p.m. Wednesday, beginning June 23, at the historic Burgh Site at Civic Center Drive and Berg Road in Southfield. This year's program caters to a full range of tastes — from Big Band to Jazz, Dixieland to Country.

Beautifully renovated 19th century buildings help create an atmosphere of old Americana, complemented by the music from the Gazebo.

In addition to the Wednesday concerts at the Gazebo for adults, a series of free, supervised activities for children will be provided. Also, a picnic

supper will be served each night for a low cost 6-7:30 p.m. Bring lawn chairs.

Here's the Wednesday concert schedule:

- June 23 — Wendell Harrison Ensemble, jazz.
 - June 30 — Panchito, Mexican/Latin.
 - July 7 — Franklin Village Band, 7-8 p.m.; Marvin Kahn Quintet, Jazz, 8-9 p.m.
 - July 14 — Detroit Brass Society, varied.
 - July 21 — Tommy Saunders Dixieland Band.
 - July 28 — Balduck Mountain Ramblers, country.
 - Aug. 4 — Larry Nozoro, jazz.
 - Aug. 11 — Marachi Zappapan, Mexican/Latin.
 - Aug. 18 — Bob Durant Dixieland Band.
 - Aug. 25 — Emil Moro Big Band.
- Concerts in the Park are presented 7 p.m. Sundays beginning July 11 at

the Sun Bowl at Prudential, behind the 3000 Building of the Prudential Town Center, Civic Center Drive and Evergreen Road, Southfield. These concerts feature a blend of different styles as well, offering something for everyone's musical tastes. For more information, call 354-4717.

Here's the Sunday concert schedule:

- July 11 — Montage, classical folk, jazz and new age.
- July 18 — Mike Karoub and His Dixie Syncopators, Dixieland and jazz.
- July 25 — Johnny Trudell's Big Band, 1940s and 1950s music.
- Aug. 1 — Tallgate Ramblers, Dixieland.
- Aug. 8 — Nick Feraru and his Gypsy Orchestra — show tunes and Romanian folk.
- Aug. 15 — Cosmopolitan, 1940s big band.
- Aug. 22 — The Dick Morrow Band, big band.

■ Aug. 29 — Steve King and the Ditties, 1950s and 1960s oldies.

The Farmington Community Band will continue its traditional summer concert series 8 p.m. Thursdays, June 24, and July 22 at Heritage Park on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads. For more information, call 478-5014 or 489-3412.

Here's the schedule:

- June 24 — Farmington Community Band Jazz/Dance Band will perform jazz favorites.
- July 22 — Farmington Community Band consisting of 60 musicians from 20 communities in the area, will present a band concert.
- Rochester's Kiwanis Club is hosting the 13th annual Summer Music in the Park Concert Series at Rochester Municipal Park, off Sixth Street near Walton and Pine. Concerts begin 7:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning June 24, and conclude at 9

See CATCH, 9B

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