

ON THE MARQUEE

Radio's golden years brought to life

Ethnic music

Panchito will present a program of ethnic music and dance 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, at Civic Center Park, 33897 Five Mile at Farmington Road in Livonia. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. For information about upcoming concerts, call 425-2326.

Benefit concert

Charles and Gwen Seales will perform at the third annual Jazz Under the Stars 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, a benefit for the abused, neglected and abandoned children of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. Tickets are \$25 per person, tax-deductible. A country picnic is included with admission. For more information, call 626-7527.

Great Lakes songs

Les Murdock will convey the drama, myth and legends of the Great Lakes through folk songs at the Community Center of Farmington-Farmington Hills 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children, \$15 for a family of three. For more information, call 477-8404.

Family outing

The Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham, is offering a dinner theater program, "Oceans of Books," 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, in the Rotary Room. Bring a picnic supper and blanket if you wish. The library will supply punch. Children's entertainer Maureen Schiffman will present an hour of puppets, songs and movement. Call 647-1700 to register for the program.

Children's classic

The Children's Entertainment Company will present "Cinderella" 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre in the Jewish Community Center Main Building, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Tickets are \$4 each, available by calling 661-1000.

Bloomfield Players

Bloomfield Players, a community theater group sponsored by the Recreation-Community Services Division of the Bloomfield Hills Schools, is holding auditions for "Annie Get Your Gun." Auditions for singers and dancers will be 6-8 p.m. for children and 8-10 p.m. for teens and adults Thursday, Aug. 26, and Monday, Aug. 30, in the theater at Laber High School, 3456 Laber, Bloomfield Hills. Callback auditions will be 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 31. For more information, call 433-0885.

Musical treat

Young children ages 2-7 will receive a musical treat 7-7:40 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 18, when Rita Kirsch comes to the Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. With guitar in hand, she'll sing and involve children in traditional songs and original music. She will also use puppets to add to the fun. For more information, call 642-5800.



SALLY DUBATS

history which amuses young and old alike.

"WSRO On The Air" is a collaboration of old standards such as "The Bickersons," a new work by Royal Oak resident Tom Ferrell, "The Shared Man," and a Sir Arthur Conan Doyle short story "The Dying Detective," a Sherlock Holmes mystery adapted for "radio" by Joseph Haynes.

Co-directors Marje King and William Mandt bring to life the classic radio style. The stories are read in a radio studio with microphones and a sound table. While the stories are told, horses can be heard galloping, paper and change shuffle, doors open and close — all details which made radio so believable to the imagination during its height of popularity.

"The Shared Man" is a cute story which forecasts the year 2065 with an overabundance of women who rule the world politically. One of the laws is that each man must have two wives due to the shortage of men. Steve Zizka as Joe, the man with two wives, is comical in his dead-pan delivery of lines such as "The punishment for bigamy is two wives."

Maggie Savage and Annabelle Marshbanks both offer fun and variety in their interpretations of Mary and Teri, the two women who must legally share Joe.

Commercials interrupt the stories, such as the memorable "Mmm, Mmm, Good" Campbell's Soup ad which features a quartet of gifted singers including Michelle Cloutier,

"WSRO ON THE AIR"

Theater: SRO Productions at the City of Southfield's historic center, The Burch, in the renovated 1854 church on the northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road, one block east of Telegraph. Curtain time: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 13-14, Aug. 20-21, 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 15 and Aug. 22. Tickets: \$7 general admission, \$6 seniors and children. Available at the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To charge tickets or for information, call 827-0700. Open seating, tickets will be held at the door by charge only.

Maggie Savage, Marc Rosati and Kevin Branshaw. The quartet also sings such longtime standards as "Sentimental Journey" and "The Trolley Song." The lovely arrangement of these songs also lends to the 1940's atmosphere.

Ralph Rosati and Judie Rosati make it easy to laugh at the follies of John and Blanche, the most famous miserable married couple on radio. "The Bickersons" is a very funny skit with such marital bentering as John's proclamation that "Marriage isn't a word. It's a sentence."

As Blanche retires for slumber and says, "I have to finish my face John grumpily replies, "Your face is finished." The Rosatis' comedic timing while delivering these lines make them all the more entertaining.

Act II reacquaints the audience with one genre of radio that was perhaps the most effective during its heyday. Left to the imagination, the mystery theatre drew pictures sometimes



Radio memories: Remi Esordi (left to right), Steve Zizka, Greg Morgan, Marc Rosati and Joan Boufford rehearse for the SRO presentation of "WSRO On The Air."

The stories are read in a radio studio with microphones and a sound table. While the stories are told, horses can be heard galloping, paper and change shuffle, doors open and close.

more horrifying or thrilling than can be created on the big screen today.

"The Dying Detective," a Sherlock Holmes mystery, lends itself to a sense of urgency as Greg Morgan skillfully executes a British accent in one of Dr. Watson's famous narratives. Steve Zizka also does a wonderful job as the dying Sherlock Holmes, complete with wheezing and coughing.

Marc Rosati also enhances a terrific element of mystery with intriguing British characterizations of cabbies, as well as Culverton Smith, an enemy of Sherlock Holmes who is perhaps the

only man who can save him from certain death.

SRO is contemplating making "WSRO On The Air" an annual summer event. With such abundant treasured material as "The Green Hornet," "The Shadow" and Red Skelton as "The Bad Little Boy" and Fanny Brice as "Baby Snooks," it would be an annual event to anticipate with pleasure.

Sally Dubats of Madison Heights is an actress, director and teacher, who teaches at community theaters in the metropolitan area. She is artistic director of West End Productions headquartered in Livonia.

Bookstore, park concerts on LSO calendar

Members of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra have the month of August packed with appearances.

Three musicians with the LSO will perform a one-hour recital of selected French compositions at noon Sunday, Aug. 15, in Borders Books & Music, Novi Town Center, off Novi Road, just south of I-96.



Villeneuve

The performers are soprano Nancy Delawky Villeneuve, violinist Alyze Dressling and pianist Brandon Cagnon. LSO member and soloist Francesco Dibiasi will narrate.

"It's in keeping with our tradition that we have found pleasant for the store," said Wanda Freeman,

community relations coordinator for Borders in Novi.

The store has a long tradition of monthly music concerts usually built around a holiday. This one's no exception, even if the holiday is obscure.

Chauvin Day is named after Nicholas Chauvin, a French soldier who worshipped anything to do with his native country, especially his emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte. Fittingly enough, Chauvin Day falls on Napoleon's birthday. He also lends his name to a word found in the English language, "chauvinism," which originally meant belligerent patriotism and later absurdly intense attachment to any case.

The artists set to perform at Borders have had a long association with the LSO. Delawky Villeneuve has been a soloist on several occasions

with the symphony. Dressling is concertmaster of the International Symphony of San Diego and is currently performing with the LSO. Cagnon, well-known in the area as a pianist, is a former student of Donald Moorelock and will study with Anton Neil at the University of Michigan this fall.

Another free concert is in the offing 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, when the symphony plays "Music Under the Stars" at the Livonia Civic Center Park, Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. In case of rain, the concert will be at Madonna University, Levan and Schoolcraft. Soprano Jennifer Fitch is the soloist.

"Sunday Sports & Symphony," an annual benefit for the LSO sponsored by Laurel Park Place, is set for 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23. Howard Watkins, pianist, will perform "Rhapsody

in Blue." Nancy Delawky Villeneuve will make another appearance with the LSO, this time performing a medley of Broadway favorites in a center-court pops concert.

As part of the benefit, "A Taste of Livonia" will feature food from more than 25 area restaurants, hotels and food services. An appearance by ex-Detroit Pistons star Yinnie Johnson will help provide the "sports" part of the event's title.

A silent auction will feature a re-opens vacation sponsored by Marriott Hotel and Northwest Airlines.

Tickets are \$25 per person in advance, \$30 at the door. For ticket information, call 464-2741 or 462-1100. Dress is casually elegant.

There are several string section openings with the LSO for its 1993-94 season. For audition information, call Lisa Kebrlde, 477-3350.

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