Musician

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highlight their group's participa-tion in this community event.

More volunteers are still needed for the event. Call the Peint Creek Center for the Arts at 651-7458, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

Art 'n Applea is one of the oldest and largest art fairs in Michigan, featuring 275 artista, performing artists and musicians, children's art activities and refeahments. Proceeds from this fund-raiser benefit programs of the non-profit PCCA, 407 Pine in Rochester.

"I was practicing 10 hours a day at 14 years old," he said, "Any-body willing to focus on any activity will achieve a certain excellence at it. I used to teach students and I'd tell them, "You have to surrender to the discipline." In 1976, he was a finalist at the Chopin International Plano Competition in Poland. He has performed in the prestigious Tchalkovsky Plano Competition in Moscow.

"I was a classical concert pia-nist. I was living wherever I want-ed to live, I was a vegabond musi-

cian."
He has lived in Tucson, Ariz.,
New York City and Hawaii. The
last place was a mistake. Hawaii
isn't paradise to someone who

Seven area businesses and volunteer groups have signed up to work during the Sept. 11-12 Art 'n Apples Featival at Rochester Municipal Park.

Employees or members of Comerica Bank, Crittenton Hospital, First of America Bank, Huntington Banks, Jacobson's J-Teens, Rochester Junior Woman's Club and NBD will take gate donations, sell food and T-shirts and work in the children's art station during the two-day art fair.

Many of these volunteers will sport their company or organization T-shirt during the festival to

doesn't like the ocean.
In 1938, he returned to Michigan to play in the Meadow Brook
Music Festival.
"I didn't feel like going back to
live in Hawaii." adult market. Record companies were underwhelmed by the idea. Undeterred and buoyed by his wife's moral support, Syme went to a friend's recording studio in Tucson and put together "Play It Again, Syme." New lifestyle

Again, Syme."

He booked himself on radio talk shows to promote his record and generate orders. Interviews soon svolved into a stock series of questions. "How old were you when you started?" "Any advice for young musicians?" Then fate took a hand. He met his wife, Suzanne, and decided to overhaul his lifestyle. "I began to ask myself how can I utilize my musical gifts and live a normal life." I utilize my musical gius anu ave a normal life.

Observing that "The average person doesn't like classical mu-sic," he began to explore recording for the popular market. He thought old favorites like "As Time Goes By" and "Rhapady in Blue" could find a niche in the

when you starter." Any advice for young musicians?"

"It's very predictable."

Until one day someone asked him if he could play the thems song to "Leave It to Beaver." For Syme, who spent his boyhood learning those songs, the request seemed tailor-made, it was a simple matter for him to sit down, prop up the phone near the piano and plunk out the notes.

Another caller requested the theme from "The Andy Griffith Show." Then another wanted the Beatles tune "Eight Days A Week." By the end of the show, Syme had a sore neck from balancing the phone and a new way to market his records.

Tuned in

Now, on some days, he's booked on as many as six talk shows across the country. From late

night chats to late afternoon drive time. Syme averages between 16 and 20 shows a week. "I've become a change-of-pace talk show guest. I've become sort of a breath of fresh air after peo-ple get tired of talking about the president's latest decision."

president's latest decision."
His fifth and most recent collection, "Rock Formations," is a
collection of boomer rock favorites. As with all his records, Syme
comes up with the titles and the
graphics. This one shows him in
an Indiana Jones get-up, examining rocks.

ing rocks.

Syme has distribution arrangements locally with Harmony House and throughout much of the nation with Music Land. Under the watchful eye of his wife, who is also his business manager, he has acquired a toll-free telephone number for a mail-order business that accepts credit cards.

With this modest success, he's thinking of going back on the road.

road.
"It's a real exciting way to spend the next few years."

Hometown concert

In May his date with the Butler (Pa.) Symphony sold out after he plugged it on local radio. There were 1,300 tickets sold for the

Noteworthy accomplishment: David Syme of West Bloomfield, the Human Jukebox, is well known to radio listen-

ers for his vast knowledge of long-forgotten tunes. He

1,200-seat auditorium.

"We feel this was a very good sign."

After wowing them in Butler, he's going after a hometown crowd at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, at the Magic Bag in Ferndale. Tickets are available through Ticket Master.

He's still adding to his repertoire. For every caller who wants

will perform in the area this month.

THE WEST

SABLANCA

to hear some Gerahwin, there seems to be one with a yen to listen to the old Iron Butterfly tune 'Iron Gadda Da Vidda.''
But you won't find him lining up in a store for sheet music. He's the guy sitting in the corner of the restaurant, listening to the same song over again on the jukebox. "Two quarters in the jukebox and I know it."

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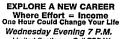


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