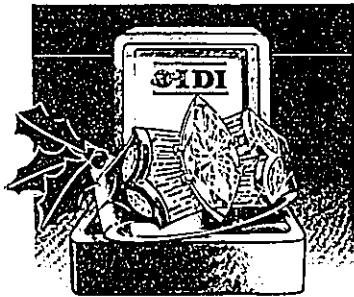


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Give the gift of music

By Susan B. Tauber
Special Writer

“Everyone loves music. It doesn't matter what kind.” That's what Sandy Bean says about gifts of music. Bean is vice president of advertising at Harmony House. It has 37 stores in Michigan, Illinois and Ohio.

Someone else who believes in the gift of music is Tim Hoy. He is president and owner of Hammell Music stores in Livonia, Clawson and Utica.

While Bean and Hoy sell different kinds of music, they say giving a gift of music is what counts. “It really is the universal language,” Bean added. “Box sets make wonderful gifts. There are several new ones available this holiday season,” Bean said. “These include the first box set of Janice Joplin's music and sets of Johnny Mathis, Metallica, Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross, Police, Hillsville USA II from 1972-92, Led Zeppelin and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

There are holiday songs performed by Winona Judd, Michael Crawford, Johnny Mathis, Vince Gill, Aaron Neville of The Neville Brothers and Boys 2 Men. There's also a new sound track of “The Nutcracker” Ballet that Bean expects to sell well.

Since many gifts are purchased for children, Bean had several suggestions for them. New releases include CDs and tapes of Barney, a new favorite of the preschool crowd; a release by the TV series “Full

House” twins, and the soundtracks to the movies, “Aladdin,” Beauty and the Beast” and “The Little Mermaid.”

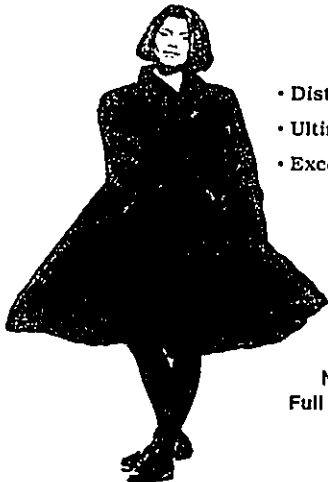
There are some children's favorites that continue to sell year after year. These include ones by Alvin and the Chipmunks, John Denver and the Muppets and Nat King Cole singing with children. Hammell Music offers gifts of music on another scale. “We offer various types of pianos and other musical instruments, printed music, teaching supplies and music lessons. We also have a musical boutique that sells anything that has to do with music. If it has a musical motif, we have it,” Hoy explained.

Some of the more unusual gift items in the boutique include musical toilet seat covers, watches, scarves and gloves. Hoy listed several new items he recommends as gifts of music.

“The Yamaha Disklavier is the hottest new item we have,” he said. “It is a piano with a computer but it really operates as four kinds of pianos.” It can be a regular acoustic piano; a piano on which pianists can record themselves performing and then have the piano play back the recording; a piano that plays prerecorded discs by such notable pianists as Peter Nero and Andre Watts and a piano which can be hooked up to other keyboards or computers. “It is so sophisticated that you

See Music, 13

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