

Symphonies from page 1B

the concert, the quality of the presentations rests on the musicians and the musical directors who make up these community orchestras.

Most of the community orchestras combine professional, paid musicians with volunteer music lovers who make a living doing something else.

From the professional realm, orchestras pull in members from as far away as Toledo and the far east side of Detroit. Many of the musicians come from Ann Arbor and still others come right from the community served.

Like William Hulaker, a bassist from Detroit playing with the Plymouth orchestra, most of them come from other music-related fields. Hulaker is the music librarian at Wayne State University. Brian Moon, a trumpet player from Birmingham who plays with the Livonia and Farmington group, also teaches private lessons.

John's father Benzy is also a great conductor with the Redford Symphony Orchestra.

The Farmington Philharmonic (the name was chosen because it means "Lovers of music," according to Nixon) draws musicians from the Detroit Symphony as well as the Michigan Opera Theatre orchestras.

While these are fine musicians who propel these orchestras to great musical heights, credit must certainly be given to the engineers, dentists, magistrates and doctors who fill in the gaps and ensure that involvement in music doesn't end when you outgrow the high school orchestra.

Dr. Joseph Lewis, a heart surgeon at Henry Ford Hospital,

None of these individual experiences with music played on a stereo or radio can compare with the heart-pounding emotional impact of being a part of an audience at a live orchestra performance.

finds time to guest conduct the Redford symphony and Magistrate Winston Churchill has been playing with the Redford group for about 30 years.

"We don't turn people away," said Conductor John Gajoc. "We are known for re-stimulating people's interest in their music. It is generally a really good experience for them."

The audience

The old questions go, "If a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?"

If the question is asked about community orchestra, the answer is a hearty "yes." Whether the audience is a dozen people or 800, the show goes on and the musicians give their best. Local music directors, however, are pleased to report that their audiences are growing.

Nixon reports that in the three years since the Farmington Philharmonic organized, the audience has tripled and with even more of their popular themed events this year, they expect the numbers to soar.

The Plymouth symphony has had to turn people away for some time, but more popular season concerts.

Livonia, Plymouth and Farmington report audiences of between 500 and 800 people on a regular basis, while Redford has a

slightly smaller following.

Younger families are coming to concert events which places all involved.

All area orchestras are learning that it is a combination of pop and classical concertos that will secure community support.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Felix Reanick, divides their season between the two genres of music. This season they are even incorporating the art of initial-making into their concerts with antique quilts.

"Music is an expression of the time and the originator just as quilts are," said ticket chairman for the orchestra, Carla Lamphart. The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra's 20th season this year. Their first concert is Oct. 23 at Temple Beth El. Call (810) 645-BSSO for information.

The Rochester Symphony Orchestra also mixes pop concerts into their season, but the Southfield Symphony will maintain a purely classical tone.

Rochester Symphony Orchestra opens its season on Oct. 14 at Varner Hall on the Oakland University campus, call (810) 651-4181. Southfield Symphony's first concert of the 1994-95 season is on Sunday, Nov. 6 at St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills. Call (810) 354-4854 for ticket information.

1994-95 Symphony Schedule

- Farmington Area Philharmonics**
(810) 478-2075
- "Rhapsody in Red, White and Blue," featuring longtime pianist, William Albright, 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, North Farmington High School.
 - "Buckaroo Holidays II" family concert 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, Mercy Center.
 - "Cheerful" British concert featuring DSO violinist Hart Holman, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, North Farmington High School.
 - "The Nutcracker and other Smokey" family concert 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, Mercy Center.
 - "Winter Fantasia 3," 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, Mercy Center.
 - "Love Stories!" 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, Mercy High School.
 - "Tchaikovsky Tchaikovsky!" 3 p.m. Sunday, March 19, Mercy High School.
- Livonia Symphony Orchestra**
(313) 421-1111 or (313) 464-2741. Concerts at the James P. Carl Auditorium, Churchill High School, Newburgh at Joy Road.
- "Double Your Pleasure" featuring guest artists Ralph and Tina Votapek performing Podenco's "Concerto for Two Pianos" 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.
 - "The Nutcracker Ballet" with Contemporary Civic Ballet Company, guest artists Katia Waldo and Mikko Nissinen of the San Francisco Ballet Company. 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.
 - "Home for the Holidays" with Clarenceville High School Choir. Concert ends with audience singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10.
 - "A Family Affair," guest narrator Paul Russell presents Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra." High-tech moving light show with special effects to the music of Marconi, Beethoven, Rossini and others, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4.
 - "Winds of March" features Mozart's "Overture to Magic Flute" and highlights from "Miss Saigon," 8 p.m. Saturday, March 11.
 - "Jazz with Class" New Orleans jazz and swing featuring James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band, music by Brahms, and other composers featuring, 8 p.m. Saturday, May 6.
 - "Cabaret" at Burton Manor in Livonia, 7 p.m. Friday, April 7.
- Plymouth Symphony Orchestra**
(313) 453-2112
- "Grand Opening" features pianist Pauline Martin, 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, Salem High School Auditorium.
 - "English Variations" featuring DSO trumpeter Ramon Parcella with enchanting sounds of the English countryside, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, Belleville High School Auditorium.
 - "Nutcracker Ballet" 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9-10, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, Salem High School Auditorium.
 - "Chamber Concert" and performances by PSO Youth Artist Competition winners, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, Canton Little Theatre.
 - "Americana" patriotic program includes Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, Salem High School Auditorium.
 - "Family Concert" featuring eight-year-old violinist, Al Tachucki and Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf," 3 p.m. Saturday, March 11, Plymouth-Canton High School and Sunday, March 12, Novi High School.
- Redford Civic Symphony**
(313) 538-1652. Concerts at Thurston High School, 26141 Schoolcraft.
- Christmas concert, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18.
 - Family concert, 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19.
 - Cabaret concert, 3 p.m. Sunday, April 16.
 - Spring concert, 3 p.m. Sunday, May 21.

Schoolcraft presents two shows

Schoolcraft College in Livonia presents two shows every year in a dinner theater setting. Call 313-462-4409 for tickets.

Dinner and show tickets are \$16. Show only tickets are \$6.50.

This year, they will present Peter Weiss' "Marat/Sade" — (The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as performed by the inmates of

the Asylum of Charenton under the direction of the Marquis De Sade) Oct. 21-22, Oct. 28-29, Nov. 4-5.

During the winter semester they will present Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple." Show dates are March 17-18, March 24-25, March 31 and April 1.

Auditions for "The Odd Couple," are scheduled Jan. 24-25.

Welcome from page 1B

We're also interested in learning your favorite places to eat out, and which movies and videos you recommend. Your comments matter to us, please feel free to call me anytime.

Are you ready? Get set, go! Look inside, we think you'll be pleased with the changes we've made.

Kerly Wygonik is editor of the Let's Get section of the Observer Newspapers. She welcomes your calls and comments, 963-2106, fax 931-7279, or write: Observer Newspapers, Inc. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

Theater from page 1B

Guild, the Theatre Guild (Livonia-Redford) and Trinity House (Livonia) all have script reading committees which analyze and recommend the season of shows. Over the last few months, the four groups have read over 200 scripts.

Farmington Players opens its 44th season with the classic comedy "The Man Who Came to Dinner" Oct. 28. This Misses Hest George S. Kaufman favorite about the inebriated Sheridan Whiteside who arrives as a visitor — then becomes an invalid and takes over a household is already in rehearsal.

Farmington performs in a 173-seat playhouse on 12 Mile road, 1/4 mile west of Orchard Lake Road.

Plymouth Theatre Guild performs at the Water Tower Theatre on the campus of the Northville State Hospital at 41001 West Seven Mile. Guild president Karen Groves reports that the Guild has spent about \$3,000 to improve the sound system and eliminate auditorium echoes.

Plymouth opens its 48th season with an original musical revue, "Spirit of Broadway." Written and directed by guild member Francine Hachen. The show opening Sept. 23, presents a sampler of songs and dance numbers from many classic Broadway shows including "West Side Story," "Gypsy," "Chorus Line," "Miss Saigon," and "Annie."

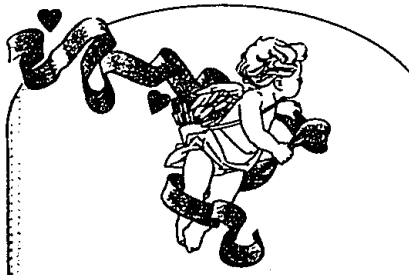
The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford continues its tradition of performing thoughtful fare with A. Guernsey's "What I Did Last Summer." Auditions are 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25 and Tuesday, Sept. 27 at the Guild's playhouse on Beech Daly just south of Five Mile. The show opens Nov. 4.

Trinity House Theatre on Six Mile, just west of I-275 in Livonia, occupies a special niche in local theater that they only perform plays which emphasize ethical or moral values.

Their fall season begins Sept. 8 with Timothy Compeau performing his original comedy, "Trapped in the Rubber Room."

What's on Stage

- FARMINGTON PLAYERS**
32332 W. Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills (810) 553-2955. Curtain time: 7 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays.
- "The Man Who Came to Dinner" - Oct. 28-30; Nov. 4-6, Nov. 10-13, Nov. 17-19.
 - "What I Did Last Summer" - Jan. 27-29; Feb. 3-5, Feb. 9-12, Feb. 16-18.
 - "How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" - April 28-30; May 4-7, May 11-14, May 18-20.
- PLYMOUTH THEATRE GUILD**
Water Tower Theatre, 41001 W. Seven Mile Road, Northville (810) 349-7110. Curtain time: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 6 p.m. Sundays.
- "Spirit of Broadway" - Sept. 23-24, Sept. 30; Oct. 4-2, Oct. 7-8.
 - "The Foreigner" - Nov. 18-19, Nov. 25-27; Dec. 2-3.
 - "The King and I" - Feb. 24-26; March 3-5, March 10-11.
 - "Do Unto Others" - April 28-29, May 5-7, May 12-13.
- THE THEATRE GUILD (LIVONIA-REDFORD)**
15138 Beech Daly, Redford (313) 538-5678. Curtain time: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.
- "What I Did Last Summer" - Nov. 4-5, Nov. 11-12, Nov. 18-19.
 - "Marvin's Room" - Feb. 17-18, Feb. 24-25, March 3-4.
 - "The Miracle Worker" - April 28-29; May 5-6, May 12-13.
- TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE**
38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia (313) 464-6302. Curtain time: 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 7 p.m. Sundays.
- "Trapped in the Rubber Room" - Sept. 8-14.
 - "The Frog Prince" - 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25.
 - "Common Room" - Sept. 30, Oct. 1.
 - "Farmhouse" - Oct. 21-22.
 - "Things We Couldn't Say" - Nov. 4-5, Nov. 11-12.



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