

Symphony presents 'From Oklahoma to the South Pacific'

The Farmington area Philharmonic will present an evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein on Friday, Jan. 10, at Oakland Community College.

The program, "From Oklahoma to the South Pacific," will feature the vocal quartet SATB, sponsored by Century 21 Market Place of West Bloomfield.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. in the Wallace Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge campus, at 27055 Orchard Lake Road just south of I-696 (Reuther Freeway). The small theatre, with a capacity of only 420, is likely to sell out, so patrons are urged to purchase tickets early for this event.

"Rodgers and Hammerstein never goes out of style," said Karen Nixon Lane, music director of the Farmington area Philharmonic since 1990.

"It's happy, singable music with lyrics that stick with you for a long time. We haven't even played the concert yet, and already I've caught myself singing 'The hills are alive' over and over. It's great stuff, and we're delighted to be able to devote an entire concert to it. It's fun and old fashioned and memorable, and audiences love it."

The program covers the hit

songs from the five great musicals from Rodgers & Hammerstein's golden years on Broadway. Included are works from "Oklahoma," "Carousel," "The King and I," and "South Pacific" - as well as the signature tune for the evening, "It's a Grand Night for Singing" from "State Fair."

The four singers who make up the vocal quartet SATB are Julia Broxholm, soprano, Wendy Bloom, alto, Todd Graber, tenor, and Chris Grapentine, baritone. They've been performing together for 7 years in recitals, concerts, and educational programs throughout the Midwest.

enormous repertoire, drawn from a broad range of musical styles, is chosen carefully, based on its enjoyability factor - that is music that does not have to be studied to be appreciated. From Broadway to Baroque, and from Richard Rodgers to Rachmaninoff, their attention to musical detail, care with interpretation, and ensemble sound has captivated audiences throughout the Midwest.

Each of the singers has an advanced degree in vocal performance. Julia Broxholm has a master's degree from the University of Michigan as does Chris Grapentine, the baritone. The

alto, Wendy Bloom, has a master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa. Todd Graber, tenor, just completed a doctorate in vocal performance at the University of Michigan.

Russell Miller has a doctorate in piano accompanying from U of M as well, giving the quartet a "pair o' docs." All four singers teach voice, and Miller teaches accompanying at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. They recently commissioned a 20 minute Christmas medley for vocal jazz quartet and symphony orchestra which has been well received by audiences and orchestras alike.

Tickets for the Rodgers & Hammerstein performance are \$15 and are now available at all area Metrobank locations, as well as at the office of Century 21 Market Place of West Bloomfield, 7366 Haggerty Road, and at the OCC box office. Call 471-7667 for information and hours. To charge your tickets by phone using your Discover card, call Metrobank at 474-6400.

Additional support for this program has been provided by the Farmington area Arts Commission, Oakland Community College, Dr. John and Shirley Richardson, and the Exchange Club of Farmington.



Operation Christmas: Prism Performance Systems chief executive officer Nancy Johnson Finley and 10-year corporate employee Mary Iuanisyn prepare packages for needy families through the management consulting firm's fifth annual Operation Christmas. Iuanisyn initiated the program, which raises up to \$3,000 in donations annually. Prism Performance of Farmington Hills is a consulting and training organization that provides a full range of consulting, training and custom designed services.

Jewish Federation honors local man

George A. Cohen, of Farmington Hills, will receive the William Avrunin Fellowship in continuing professional education. He is associate director of finance for the Jewish Federation.

The award was established in 1982 in memory of the former executive vice president of federation, who had an interest in promoting professional excellence in the field of Jewish communal service. It is presented to a federation employee who best exemplifies the late Mr. Avrunin's ideals.

Cohen joined federation as assistant controller in 1976, moving to the endowment department eight years later. In his current position, he is responsible for handling gifts in kind, managing disbursements from endowment funds and staffing support foundation meetings and the grants and distributions committee.

While they worked together, the men shared a friendship that continued following Mr. Avrunin's retirement.

Cohen "has done a tremendous amount to improve and maintain

our donor relationships," Robert Aronson, federation executive vice president, said.

"George's expertise in financial matters has greatly enhanced federation's image in the community. His gentle, friendly nature and great effectiveness have endeared him to both lay leaders and staff who seek his counsel."

Israeli films featured next in series

The Adat Shalom Synagogue film series continues on Jan. 19 and Feb. 2 when Dan Greenberg, professor of film, film critic and Adat Shalom member, will introduce and discuss two prize winning Israeli films which provide new insights into the Arab population living side by side with Jews.

On Sunday, Jan. 19, "Beyond the Walls," a drama about the harsh realities of prison life, will be presented. In this 1984 Academy Award-nominated film, Arab and Israeli prisoners are forced to co-exist and trust each other in order to survive.

"Wedding in Galilee" will be shown on Sunday, Feb. 2. The

film is an intimate portrait of an Arab Palestinian village under Israeli occupation. Beautifully filmed and acted, the story moves between the bride and groom, an alienated grandfather, and an angry group of young males.

Both evenings begin at 7 p.m. and are followed by coffee. They are open to the community at no charge.

The film series is arranged by the Adat Shalom Synagogue adult study commission. The film programs are chaired this year by Micki Grossman, Rayna Kogan, Carole Shaw and Stuart Sinai.



Dan Greenberg

Library hosts artist reception Saturday

Leon Schochit, watercolorist, will meet the public on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. at the downtown Farmington library, 23550 Liberty, near Farmington Road and Grand River.

Schochit, a member of the

Farmington Artists Club, will have 11 works on display through the end of January.

Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 9

p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Hills student winner in holiday contest

Valerie Boruta, 10, of Farmington Hills was a winner in the recent Youththeatre Holiday Card Contest.

Some 700 entries were submitted from across the metropolitan area.

The 18 finalists, including grand prize winner Erika Flores of Detroit, were recognized from the Youththeatre stage prior to a performance Sunday, Dec. 15.

The company performs at the Detroit Music Hall and just completed a run of Cinderella.

Valerie is a student at Northville Christian school.

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