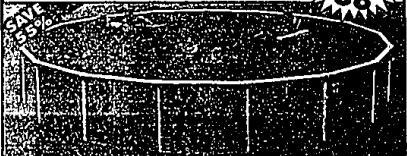


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## MUSIC

# Students come to school to play

By LINDA ANN CHOMI  
STAFF WRITER

Donald Morelock is always looking for innovative and fun ways to train budding musicians. As director of Schoolcraft College's piano and applied music departments, Morelock encourages parents to introduce children to music as early as preschool to help them develop rhythmic and technical skills.

Parents will have to wait until September for a new preschool music class and piano lessons for grades 1-4 to begin, but older

children can enroll now in Schoolcraft's Summer Music School, offered in two sessions beginning July 14 and 28.

The school, considered one of the finest chamber music programs for pre-college piano students in the United States, offers students from late elementary age through high school the opportunity to study solo and duet piano repertoire, and perform concertos with a live chamber orchestra.

"One can't overstate the importance of early training," said Morelock. "We'll be learning

about music history and theory, and playing duets. It's just going to open up their world. The children play with professional string players. Where else can you grow up playing with a chamber orchestra?"

Morelock returns from an intensive piano study program in Russia with his students one week before Summer Music School begins. This is the third time his piano students have had the opportunity to study at conservatories, which Morelock refers to as best in the world.

In 1994, Morelock was one of four American piano teachers invited to bring seven of his most talented students to study at the Moscow Conservatory. In 1996, he and 12 students were invited to St. Petersburg Conservatory. Morelock served as director of piano performances during the three-week piano study program sponsored by the conservatory, Russian Minister of Culture, International Fine Arts Institute, and in cooperation with Northwestern University.

On the faculty at Schoolcraft for 30 years, Morelock received three national awards for teaching excellence. But more importantly, his students have won several national competitions.

"We've sent more than 90

### Summer Music School

What: Piano study program for students from late elementary to high school. To audition or for information on scholarships, call Donald Morelock, (313) 462-4400, Ext. 5218.

When: July 14-25 and July 28 to Aug. 8.

Where: Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

Cost: \$245 for two-week term.

Related event: Piano Teachers Workshop Tuesday and Wednesday, June 10-11. Cost at the door is \$70 for two days, \$55 for one day. For information, call Morelock, (313) 462-4400, Ext. 5218.

Logan Skelton, this year's workshop clinician, will give a free recital featuring the music of Beethoven, Bartok, William Albright, and his own 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, in the college's Liberal Arts Theater. The public is invited. Admission free.

music majors to U of M," said Morelock. "We offer lots of performing opportunities for students, workshops, competitions."

To participate in Schoolcraft's Summer Music School, students have to memorize a piano concerto in advance, and audition.

"It's invaluable to have the opportunity to hear other students in the metropolitan area," said Morelock. "Pianists aren't isolated anymore. The summer school will give them recital experience, a lot of emphasis on how to practice well and efficiently. When you play an instrument with an orchestra, you have someone telling you how to play. Pianists are in a vacuum. It's easier to learn things in a group. We have pizza parties and they get to play lots of board games to learn sharps and flats."

The Summer Music School faculty includes Morelock, Eugene Bossart, and Donna Borgert, an adjunct professor at Schoolcraft who graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in piano performance.

Bossart, Schoolcraft College's artist in residence, had a distinguished career as accompanist for operatic voices from Mario Lanza to Lily Pons.

Bossart attended Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia with fellow students Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein and Gary Graff. He was accompanist for the Voice of Firestone Radio Hour and accompanied baritone Robert Merrill for 11 years. From 1954 to 1984, Bossart taught chamber music at University of Michigan School of Music where he established the accompanying program.

"Members of the DSO and U of M faculty members take lessons from Bossart for performance experience and polishing," said Morelock. "We're pleased to have him on our faculty staff. He's an excellent coach and committed to producing outstanding performers."

### Program for teachers

Schoolcraft College's community programs, such as the 20-year-old Teacher's Certificate program, originated after requests from local pianists who were working to improve their teaching standards.

The two-day piano teachers workshop on blending popular elements with art music June 10-11 also sprang from requests within the teaching community, said Morelock. Workshop clinician Logan Skelton's upcoming sessions on music variations was created in response to a request from piano teachers on ways to teach blues, rags and other variations for piano.

Skelton, a University of Michigan School of Music piano professor, will focus on how popular rhythms, melodies and dance styles have influenced every age from Bach to the present. Skelton has served on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music and Southwest Missouri State University.

As part of the workshop, Skelton will give a free recital featuring Beethoven's "Sonata in A major, Op. 2, No. 2," Bartok's "Dance Suite," William Albright's "The Dream Rags," and his own "Civil War Variations" 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, in the college's Liberal Arts Theater. The public is invited.

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