

# Pickled herring and a heat wave greet DSO in Germany

(This is another in a series of articles by Ervin Monroe, principal flutist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on the DSO's European tour, which has been receiving rave reviews from the European press.)  
BY ERVIN MONROE  
PRINCIPAL FLUTE, DSO

Day 11, May 7: Today we are leaving our Mediterranean port on our way to Hamburg, the second largest city in Germany located on the Elba River some 40 miles inland from the North Sea. When we arrive at the airport there's a light rain, but the sun is already shining when we reach the hotel. We have had amazingly beautiful weather on this trip. Our hotel is situated adjacent to the beautiful botanical gardens of Hamburg and is only a short distance from the famous downtown shopping area. There are also many lakes and canals in the area, and one large lake in the center of the city. Our concert is at the Musikhalle, which is one of the most charming places we will play on our trip. The entire hall resonates with each chord.

Day 12, May 8: We have another free day, and again the sun shines upon us. Some of the musicians have gone to the harbor, where Hamburg's port is celebrating its 809th anniversary! Some tall ships have arrived from the north and there's a carnival type atmosphere. Susan and I decided to walk to city hall, where we noticed a lot of people



Tuning up: Maestro Neeme Jarvi rehearses with the DSO.

gathering in the large square for lunch. The Hamburgers were purchasing their food from several outdoor vendors and we decided to "essen" with the locals. Once we were in line, a young German fellow suggested

that I try to the majesfiet instead of a bratwurst. I was expecting something quite different than what I got - which was a huge plate of pickled herring! We sat in the middle of the town square and I jealously watched

Susan enjoy her bratwurst while I pretended to be delighted with my local delicacy.

Day 13, May 9: We are up early to have one more walk through the beautiful gardens before we must depart. Ramon Parcels, principal trumpet, and his wife, Marie-Paule, violin, of Bloomfield, are also out on the pathways enjoying the flowers. We are then greeted by Kenneth Timkins, principal trombonist, of Royal Oak, who was taking some last minute pictures. All too soon we were on the plane headed for Luxembourg, a country and city about which we know very little. In the plane everyone is studying maps to learn more about our destination. One musician asked about the population and another piped in that "it will increase by 10 percent when the big '99" Luxembourg is at the tip of Belgium and is bordered also by both France and Germany. We are told that we can use almost any currency to purchase items during our brief stay. David Goldman, violinist, of Lansing, Michigan, decided to take a long stroll before the concert and stopped by a small shop to buy some mineral water. "They willingly took my German marks, but they have none of the Belgian francs. What am I going to do with these?" The concert hall in Luxembourg is relatively small and sold out.

Day 14, May 10: Up in the morning, and off to Frankfurt. By this time we have developed a real herd mentality. The constant waiting in lines has rendered us almost helpless. Bruce Smith, violinist, of Farmington Hills, confessed that he had followed the crowd after receiving his keys at the hotel, thinking they were headed to the elevators. "I wasn't paying attention, and I suddenly realized that I had followed a line of people into the men's bathroom!" The concert hall in Frankfurt is a favorite with the musicians. The concert went very well and Maestro Jarvi seemed quite pleased. We are hitting a good stride as we approach tomorrow's concert in the building city of Berlin.

Day 15, May 11: Germany is in the midst of a major heat wave. Record high temperatures have greeted us nearly every day since we arrived. The topic in Berlin is laundry. Everyone is discovering new ways to wash their clothes in the hotel. Discussions backstage reveal innovative techniques. One musician said his wife threw the dirty clothes in the shower while he was bathing, and told him to jump up and down on them. "Just pretend they are wine grapes," she instructed. Another was warning everyone not to wash clothes with the hotel's shower, which rendered her husband so aromatic that he drew attention wherever they went. Lydia Yoffe, the wife of our librarian, Elkhonon Yoffe, of Birmingham, was overheard joking in her charming Latvian

accent, "I told Honn I was tired of washing underwear in the hotel. From now on, we will just buy new ones and throw old ones away!"

The concert hall in Berlin has fabulous acoustics and the audience is situated in many angular groupings. Backstage this hall is really something. There's plenty of room for the musicians to dress and warm up, and even a well-stocked cafeteria. The table tops in our dressing rooms are covered in felt, to protect our instruments. Our concert goes well and the crowd loves our third encore, The Stars and Stripes Forever.

Day 16, May 12: A free day to enjoy the exciting sights and scenes of this reunified city.

Day 17, May 13: We are traveling to Dusseldorf, but our concert town is in Cologne. This will be a hard travel day. The luggage goes out at 8:30 AM and we depart for the airport shortly before 11:00 AM. We must depart punctually for the airport, in order to avoid President Clinton's motorcade. Our flight is delayed, and we don't arrive at the hotel in Dusseldorf until after 2 p.m. The hall is directly adjacent to the famous Cologne Cathedral, which astounded us with its massive towers and ornate workmanship. We play a well-received concert of American music, and then board our buses back to the hotel in Dusseldorf, where we warmly arrive after 11 p.m. Stuttgart awaits us tomorrow.

## SRO's 'Crossing Delancey' is charming

SRO Productions presents Susan Sandler's "Crossing Delancey," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday through May 31 at the City of Southfield's historic park, "The Burgh" on the northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road (one block east of Telegraph). Tickets \$8 general admission, \$7 for seniors and children age 12 and younger. Call (248) 827-0701.  
BY BOB WEIBEL  
SPECIAL WRITER

SRO's "Crossing Delancey" by Susan Sandler asks the question: Just how does a modern young woman meet the man of her dreams? There are, of course, scores of possibilities, unless you have a lovable, old world Jewish grandmother. This wise lady is taking no chances - she calls the matchmaker! And the fun begins.

Director, Ves Spindler, has fashioned a charming, romantic comedy for SRO. The characters are likable, their relationships are authentic, their differences in values deftly portrayed.

A few speech stumbles and pauses detracted from performances at times. And one excessively long costume change needs to be shortened to maintain the tempo and rhythm of the show.

Robin DeMaagd as Isabelle (Izzy) creates an interesting character of a modern young woman content with her life working in a bookshop in Manhattan, though she is disconnected



Romantic comedy: Robin DeMaagd and Ross Grossman star in "Crossing Delancey."

ed from her heritage and culture of New York's lower East Side. She's in no hurry to find Mr. Right. In fact, she may have already met him in the form of Tyler Moss, a writer. So, Izzy is furious when she learns that her Bubbie (an affectionate Yiddish term for grandma) wants to fix

her up with "a nice Jewish boy" (Sam) from Delancey Street who sells pickles.

Heien Weiss as Bubbie is the quintessential eccentric grandmother (complete with four locks on her door and a pouch under her clothes for all her money). Weiss tosses out Yiddish phrases

and pearls of wisdom with aplomb. On "Claymen," "Give your moth a rest, it will thank you." On Izzy's job, "Books can't make blintzes." On grabbing a man, "To catch the wild monkey, you've got to climb the tree."

Janice Leadbitter sparkles as Hannah the matchmaker - lusty, energetic, larger than life character, brash, opinionated, and always ready to eat. Her colorful outfits are delightful.

Doug Noel gives a nice reading to his role of Sam, a no nonsense hardworking guy - yet sensitive and intelligent. His advice, "Sometimes you only need to change your hat to change your attitude turns out to be pivotal.

Ross Grossman as Tyler creates a good contrast to Sam. Whereas Sam is reliable, but drab and uncool, Tyler is a hip, take-charge guy, but pretentious and manipulative. In short, it's a choice between substance and style.

When Tyler tries to use Izzy's crush on him to hire her as a low-paid secretary, she tells him to "kuab mir in tuchas." Which in a Polish translation from Yiddish is "kiss my derriere."

Incidentally, the program includes a three page glossary of Yiddish words and phrases so you can enjoy the authentic flavor of the play.

A somewhat cramped, but well-detailed set provides four acting areas on the relatively small stage.

## 'Musictellers' bring Grimm's tale to life

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Tiny Tots Series will feature Tales & Scales performing their newest work "The Enchanted Horn," 10:10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. Saturday, May 23 at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$10, call (313) 576-5111. Tickets will also be available at the door, 29300 11 Mile Road.

Based on a Grimm's Fairy Tale, "The Enchanted Horn," is the story of a hardworking, but innocent young man named Jacques, who, because of his kind heart and generosity, is granted two wishes that change his life.

He acquires the ability to have all of his commands obeyed, and a magic horn that has the power to make people dance whenever it is played.

Throughout the story, Jacques learns that hard work and practice are the only things that make wishes come true. The four musicians in Tales & Scales - Robert Caron, saxophone; Christopher Balas, bass trombone; Meldi Arkininstall, flute; and Deborah Sunya Moore, percussion, bring the story to life as they become characters, objects and dancers in a style of performance they term "musictelling."

"The Enchanted Horn," was adapted for Tales & Scales by Wayne Anthony with a musical score by composer Marc Satterwhite. The piece was directed by Gary Race.



Guest Artists: Tales & Scales will perform its newest work, "The Enchanted Horn."

**michael franks**  
pine knob music theatre  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5  
ON SALE NOW

FINAL WEEKS FOR THIS SHOW!

**The Second City**  
"Down Riverdance"

"The Second City Cast"

Tix (313) 965-2222  
SHOWS WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY  
Wed., Thur. & Sun. ONLY \$10

presented by **GUO LIGHT**

LIVE COMEDY THEATRE

OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER  
(313) 965-9500

Next to the Fox Theatre

LET HIS **passion surround** YOU.

The **PHANTOM** at the OPERA

NEW IN THE SINGLES AND DUETS YEAR IN THE SINGLES

AT THE WEST CENTRE

CALL THE LIVENET LINE:  
**(416) 872-2222**

22 BELMONT ST. CITY CENTRE

AT THE WEST CENTRE  
1000 SHEPPARD AVE. E. UNIT 101  
MIDLAND ONT. M1S 1B7

AT THE PHANTOM  
1000 SHEPPARD AVE. E. UNIT 101  
MIDLAND ONT. M1S 1B7