

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



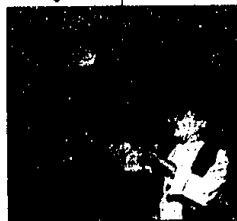
The Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents a Holiday Festival, "The Colors of Christmas" 8 p.m. at Orchestra Hall in Detroit featuring Peabo Bryson, Dionne Warwick, James Ingram and Denece Williams. Tickets \$20-\$55; call (313) 670-5111.

SATURDAY



Organist Tony O'Brien performs "The Magical Music of Christmas," with Maria Nazarenko, soprano, and Dwight Sheets, baritone 8 p.m. at the Historic Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser Road at Grand River in Detroit. Tickets \$8, available night of performance at the box office.

SUNDAY



Sean Grier is the Giant and Adam Brown is Jack in the Stagecrafters' Youth Theatre production of the musical "Jack and the Giant," 2 p.m. at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Tickets \$5 for ages 17 and under, \$7 for adults. All seats reserved; call (248) 541-8430.



Meet the Stephen R. Burroughs and Eric Dilly star in "The Fisher Theatre in Detroit" through Sunday, Dec. 10. Tickets available at the box office or call TicketMaster (800) 660-0000.



Pergola: This ceiling of lights brightens the way for visitors walking through a forest of colorful trees.

Wild Lights'

Thrilling for young and old alike



Love is everywhere: (Above) Even the swans are paired up for "Wild Lights." (Below) This mother and baby penguin are two of the 70 animal sculptures on display at the Detroit Zoo.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMEN
STAFF WRITER
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Maybe it's the more than 70 animal sculptures, many of them in pairs. Maybe it's because love brightens the senses. Whatever the reason, the Detroit Zoo's "Wild Lights" is becoming a popular destination for couples in love.

Ron Rotolo and Cheryl Lobocki recently took time out from planning their June wedding to walk arm in arm along the half-mile trail leading through the forest of 400,000 lights. The dazzling display continues through Sunday, Jan. 2.

"There's lots of places you can sit down and enjoy the atmosphere," said Lobocki, who grew up in Farmington.

"It was nice," added Rotolo, a Plymouth resident. "It's really bright."

But beware — a life-sized polar bear raising his

arms overhead could frighten some passersby. But he's the exception. The rest of the lions, elephants and kangaroos warm the heart with their playfulness. Paired up swans and mothers and their offspring, including the tiger and her cub that greet visitors to the display, speak of love and family.

Lobocki especially liked the monkey swinging through the trees, the red leaping deer, fish jumping out of the water, and the sequentially lighting butterflies. She knows good art when she sees it. Lobocki, who graduated with a fine arts degree from the University of Michigan, is creative director for the Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association in Bingham Farms.

"I like that they were animated because you

Please see LIGHTS, E3

Light Shows

■ **Wild Lights**, through Sunday, Jan. 2, 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; and 5:30-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday (closed Friday-Saturday, Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1), at the Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road at Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak. Admission \$4, \$3 children ages 2-12, and \$3 Detroit Zoological Society members. \$2 child members. (248) 541-5835.

■ **Wayne County LightFest**, through Thursday, Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday (closed Saturday, Dec. 26), along four-and-one-half miles of Edward Hines Drive from Westland to Dearborn Heights. \$5 minimum donation per car helps keep the 38 giant displays lit. (734) 281-1990.

■ **Dorline's Farms St. Nicholas Light Display**, through Friday, Dec. 31, 6-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday (\$5 donation per car), and 8:30-10:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday (\$7 per car), 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive, off Eastland Road north of Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. Proceeds benefit more than 60 Metro Detroit children charities. Visitors are encouraged to bring a donation of canned food for Ann Arbor Food Gatherers or Gleaners Food Bank. (734) 930-4430.

HOLIDAY SHOWS

Rockin' around the Christmas tree

By KEELEY WYOMON
STAFF WRITER

Santa Claus will be making special appearances this weekend to celebrate the holidays with good little girls and boys, as well as the Henry Ford Community Full Circle Dance Company, Birmingham Village Players, and Junior Actors of Ridgedale.

Full Circle Dance Company

Everyone's favorite holiday story, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," will be brought to life by the Henry Ford Community College Full Circle Dance Company 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 in the Adroy Auditorium in the MacKenzie Fine Arts Center on HFCC's main campus, 6101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. Tickets are \$5 at the door; call Diane Mancinelli (313) 845-6314 for more information.

Santa Claus will visit during the shows composed of eight dances. Featured pieces include the "Stocking Dance" set to Claude Bolling's "Fugue" and presented in black light, "Jazzy Santa," in which four elves worry about Santa falling off his

sleigh, and a toe-tapping "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" number.

The dances, music and costumes were designed with children and families in mind. Approximately 3,000 children and adults attend this show annually.

Mancinelli of Livonia, HFCC dance instructor, is directing the production which features Redford residents Springer Underwood and Brittany Valente.

Birmingham Village Players

Join the Village Players in celebrating "A Tuffeta Christmas," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at the playhouse, 762 Chestnut, (on the east side of Woodward Avenue, two blocks south of Maple). Tickets are \$8 adults, \$5, children ages 3-12. To make a reservation for the Dec. 10 or 12 performance, call (248) 844-2076. "A Tuffeta Christmas" will also be presented during the First Night Celebration in Birmingham on Friday, Dec. 31 at the Village Players theater. New Year's Eve performances are 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Please see SHOWS, E3



Holiday event: Henry Ford Community College's Full Circle Dance Company, (standing left to right) Ann Marie Pizzimenti, Springer Underwood and Brittany Valente (both of Redford), Anna McMaster and Lori Moran, (seated, left to right) Natalie Gorman, William Spicher as Santa and Janeen Drugacz, bring the classic story, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," to life, Dec. 10-11.