

Entertainment

Farmington Observer

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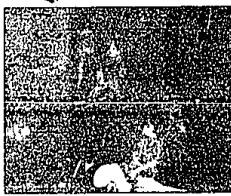
THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



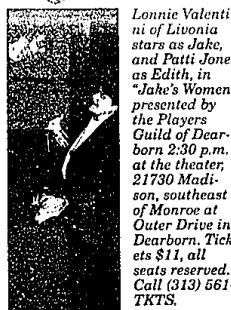
Academy Award winner Susan Sarandon (left) and John Cusack, star in "Cradle Will Rock," opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters. Based on true events, the film focuses on a group of artists who are determined to mount a musical at the WPA Theatre despite overwhelming odds.

SATURDAY



"Storytelling Through the Ages" at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, features workshops by Debra Christian and other storytellers beginning at 10 a.m., a children's show 1:20 p.m., and 7 p.m. family concert. Tickets \$5 or \$15 per family. Call (734) 397-6450 for workshop schedule and other information.

SUNDAY



Lonnie Valenti of Livonia stars as Jake, and Patti Jones as Edith, in "Jake's Women" presented by the Players Guild of Dearborn 2:30 p.m. at the theater, 21730 Madison, southeast of Monroe at Outer Drive in Dearborn. Tickets \$11, all seats reserved. Call (313) 561-5773.



Hot Ticket Item: This concept beach vehicle by Rinspeed is among dozens of new vehicles at the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in Detroit. The show is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Saturday, Jan. 22, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23. Admission is free for people up to age 12 (when accompanied by a parent), \$10 for people age 13-64, and \$5 for people age 65 and up. Orders of 24 tickets or less may be purchased through Ticketmaster, (248) 645-6666.

Wagner is rehearsing the choir for a concert with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Jan. 22, in

Arlo Guthrie

spins tales at folk festival

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Arlo Guthrie modestly declines all the credit for his ability to spin spellbinding stories. Guthrie is one of the featured performers at the Ann Arbor Folk Festival Saturday, Jan. 23, in Hill Auditorium.

Even though he grew up surrounded by folk legends such as his father Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie was able to write the anti-war anthem, "Alice's Restaurant Massacre," not because of some inborn genius but because it happened to him. Maybe that's why the 18-minute song about a fellow dismissed from the draft and subsequently from killing women and children in Vietnam, remains as popular with the younger crowd as those who grew up during the late 60's and early 70's. His clever lyrics may sometimes border

Please see GUTHRIE, E2

Anything you want: Arlo Guthrie is one of the headliners at the Ann Arbor Folk Festival.

Local musicians support folk festival

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
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Talk about irony.

Matt Watroba stands before students at Plymouth Canton High School, the teacher in the classroom where he once came to learn. Watroba is perhaps better-known as host and producer of "Folks Like Us" on WDET-FM. As an English teacher at the high school, he educates students on subjects such as English, literature and theater. During his days at Plymouth Canton in that very classroom, he discovered something which would become his life's passion: Watroba was introduced to folk music.

In ninth grade his English teacher played a record by Tom Paxton. "Something about that record really spoke to me," he said. "It just started the whole ball rolling." By 10th grade, Watroba began frequenting The Ark coffeehouse in Ann Arbor, and his interest in folk music grew. He wanted to learn all he could about the genre. That expertise lead to his

own radio show, which has endured 13 years.

Watroba, along with well-known Detroit bluesman Robert Jones, will perform at and emcee the 23rd annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival Saturday, Jan. 23 at The Ark.

"I don't know if I'd do it myself," said Watroba.

The two met 13 years ago at the radio station. They host back-to-back Saturday programs. Jones, who hosts the award-winning "Blues from the Lowlands," is a

self-taught musician with a love for listening to and performing traditional blues and spiritual music.

"It's a real honor," said Jones, a Detroit resident. "By no means do you often get an opportunity to be part of this program. We're all looking forward to it."

The Ann Arbor Folk Festival is a major fund-raiser for The Ark, a club that Jones refers to as a

Please see LOCAL, E2

CONCERT

Ensembles join forces for Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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When Ludwig van Beethoven began sketching his ninth symphony, he probably never dreamed it would one day play to sold-out audiences. It would have made all the time he spent composing the complex and lengthy work seem more "joyful." After all, that's what Friedrich von Schiller had in mind when he wrote the ode expressing the "ideal of brotherhood of all mankind."

"When Beethoven decided to incorporate Schiller's 'Ode to Joy' in the Ninth Symphony, he set only about a third of the text and added a 12-word introduction to effect the transition from instrumental to voice so this 'hornlike' symphony is an instrumental work with a chorale finale," said David Wagner, director of the Madonna Orchestra.

Carli Auditorium at Churchill High School in Livonia. Beethoven's ninth symphony is the highlight of the program, which features guest soloists Maria Cimarelli, a soprano and music director at Birmingham Temple in Birmingham Hills; Christina Romana Lypecky, a mezzo-soprano born in Ukraine; Karl Schmidt, a tenor featured in Michigan Opera Theatre mainstage productions, and Donald Hartmann, a bass-baritone and profes-

sor of music at Eastern Michigan University.

Livonia Symphony conductor Volodymyr Schesuk wanted to perform the monumental work in a way of saying "Hello, New Millennium," the title of the program that also includes Richard Strauss' theme from "2001 A Space Odyssey." He will speak about Beethoven's moving work at the beginning of the concert, Schesuk said. Beethoven is not an old-fashioned composer but just as viable today.

"The ninth symphony is something we cannot play everyday, but for very special occasions, a celebration like when the United Nations was organized after World War II. It was performed then," said Schesuk.

"Beethoven's last movement on Schiller's 'Ode to Joy' says 'People, brothers, everybody, enjoy your time.' For me this music is not really music. It's a philosophical mind that concentrates on the history of human beings

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HARVEY
Ode to Joy: Madonna University Chorale members Nancy Grabarczyk (left) of Farmington Hills and Krista Strang, Waterford, rehearse for a concert with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

Please see JOY, E2

Community bands present joint concert

BY KEELY WAGONIC
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The Farmington Community Band and Birmingham Concert Band are getting together Sunday to present a joint concert at Birmingham Groves High School.

Each band will play for a half hour before joining together as a mass band for a finale under the direction of Douglas Birch, director of bands at Wayne State University.

There is no charge for the concert, but donations will be welcomed and appreciated to help pay concert costs.

Paul Barber, conductor and founder of the Farmington Concert Band, and Grant Hoemke, conductor of the Birmingham Concert Band, have selected a variety of music from swing to classics and marches.

For the past 18 years the bands have looked forward to hearing each other play and renewing friendships at the Festival of Bands, formerly held at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

When the festival was discontinued last year, there were a lot of sorry people in both bands.

"Folks missed it," said Paul Barber, founder and conductor of the Farmington Community Band. "Last summer we called each other to discuss the possibility of a joint concert," said Grant Hoemke, conductor of the Birmingham Concert Band.

They both work for the Farmington Public Schools. Barber is music coordinator for the school system, and Hoemke an instrumental elementary music instructor. Together they developed a plan to hold one joint concert a year, one year in Birmingham, the other in Farmington.

Please see BANDS, E3

Two for One

WHAT: The Farmington Community Band joins the Birmingham Concert Band in a special concert.

WHEN: 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23, Groves High School Auditorium, 20500 W. 13 Mile Road, Birmingham

ADMISSION: No charge, but donations will be appreciated. For more information, call (734) 261-2202. Web sites: fcband.org; birminghamconcertband.org

Special event:

■ Valentine Dinner Dance featuring the Farmington Community Band/Jazz/Dance Band - Friday, Feb. 13, at Glen Oaks Country Club, Farmington Hills. Cash bar cocktail hour begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by buffet dinner at 7:30 p.m. and dancing until midnight. Tickets available by reservation only, individually or in tables of eight. Call (734) 261-2202 for reservations/information.

To join the band:

■ Farmington Community Band members range in age from 13-78. There are some high school members, but it's primarily adults. You don't have to be a music major. The rehearsal 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Monday at Groves High School. Call (248) 483-3432 for more information about the band, or visit the Web site.

■ Birmingham Concert Band members range in age from early 20s to their early 80s. No audition is required to join. The band rehearses 7:30-9:45 p.m. on Wednesday at Groves High School in Birmingham. For more information, call (248) 474-4997, or visit the Web site.