

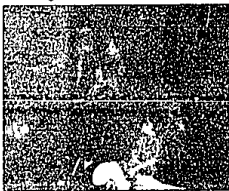
THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



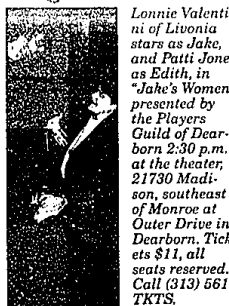
Academy Award winner Susan Sarandon (left) and John Cusack, star in "Cradle Will Rock," opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters. Based on true events, the film focuses on a group of artists who are determined to mount a musical at the WPA Theatre despite overwhelming odds.

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 1-2:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. family concert. Tickets \$5 or \$16 per family. Call (734) 397-6450 for workshop schedule and other information.

SUNDAY



Lonnie Valentin 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) 661-TKTS.



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) 646-6666.

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. 29, 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 with those who grew up during the late 60s and early 70s. His clever lyrics may sometimes border

Ann Arbor Folk Festival

WHO: Arlo Guthrie, Shawn Colvin, Great Big Sea, Beth Nielsen Chapman, Hot Club of Cowtown, Anne Hill, Fred Eaglesmith, David Barrett, Matt Watroba and Robert Jones.

WHEN: 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29.

WHERE: Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor.

TICKETS: \$30, \$25, Call (734) 763-TKTS or (248) 645-6666.

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

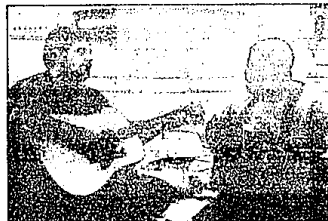
By STEPHANIE ANGELIN CASOLA
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Talk about irony.

Matt Watroba stands before students at Plymouth Canton High School, now teaching 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 led to his



own radio show, which has endured 13 years.

Watroba, along with well-known Detroit bluesmen Robert Jones, will perform at and emcee the 23rd annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival Saturday, Jan. 29 at The Ark. "I don't know if I'd do it by 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

See folks like them: Matt Watroba and Robert Jones will emcee and perform at the Ann Arbor Folk Festival Saturday, Jan. 29 at The Ark.

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

Community bands present joint concert

By KEELY WYGONIK
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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 Bianchi, 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: Farmington Community Band www.fcband.org; Birmingham Concert Band, www.birminghamconcertband.org.

Special event:

■ Valentine Dinner Dance, featuring the Farmington Community Band Jazz/Dance Band - Friday, Feb. 11, 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 audition to join. They rehearse 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Mondays at Farmington High School. Call (248) 483-3412 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.

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 as this 'Choral' Symphony is an instrumental work with a choral finale," said David Wagner, director of the Madonna University Choral.

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

"Hello New Millennium"

WHAT: The Livonia Symphony Orchestra and Madonna University Choral perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22.

WHERE: Churchill High School Auditorium, 8900 Newburgh, north of Joy Road, Livonia.

TICKETS: \$15 adults, \$10 students. Call (248) 464-2741, (734) 421-1111 or (248) 645-6666.

Carl Auditorium at Churchill High School in Livonia. Beethoven's ninth symphony is the highlight of the program, which features guest soloists Maria Cimarrilli, a soprano and music director at Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills; Christina Romana Lepczyk, 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 Schesniuk wanted to perform the monumental work as 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. Schesniuk said, Beethoven is not an old-fashioned composer but just as viable today.

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

"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

Please see JOY, E2



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