

# Baritone

from page E1

Stephen Sondheim's "Tomorrow" from "Annie." Midway through the first half of the program, Chalfant will follow an evening of music by Charles Gounod with Charles Ives' dissonant "Sunrise." The audience will receive translations for the songs sung in Italian, German and French.

"I've may sound strange after hearing Gounod, a 19th century French romantic," said Chalfant. "Ives is an American 20th century rough and tough, angular sound."

The title of the program, "Songs of Night and Day," comes from the theme of the repertoire and from Chalfant's approach to recital singing.

"I want to invite someone familiar with classical and art songs to hear musical theater and to those who like musical theater, to reveal to them poems about night and day in art songs. To my mind, the musical theater I'm singing is much more suited

to a classical singer. Porter and Rodgers and Hammerstein were written for piano and voice and have the same kind of impulse as an art song – a poem and a lyrical melody."

## Teo to metro Detroit

This is Chalfant's second recital at the church. He first appeared there in June after his aunt, Martha Chalfant, suggested he perform in the church's music series. Erik visited metro Detroit often as a boy.

"My aunt was instrumental in my early development," said Chalfant. "We always went to Cranbrook and to see productions in Detroit. We visited the museums. I loved it."

Linette Popoff-Park will accompany Chalfant on piano for a second time at the church. Violinist Vicki Kelly is also joining them for the recital.

"One of Erik's many talents is to design a varied program from

arts songs to Broadway," said Popoff-Park, chairman of the music department at Madonna University in Livonia.

The son of a Protestant preacher, Chalfant had plenty of opportunity to sing in church and church theater. He learned to sing and play piano at a young age. His mother was a pianist who began instructing her son at age five.

"My father was in front of people all the time," he said. "I learned from him to communicate to an audience."

## Childhood

A native of Chicago, Chalfant grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a piano major in college until attending Tanglewood Institute where he met noted American soprano Phyllis Curtin. Chalfant moved to New York four years after completing graduate studies with Curtin at Boston University. It was

Curtin's prompting that led him to New York from Boston, where he had been teaching voice and had a faculty appointment at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass.

"She told me if he wanted to perform, I'd have to move to New York to find opportunities for recitals," said Chalfant. "She also told me that while she enjoyed her career making a living off dead composers, we have a responsibility to give the composers of this day their voice."

Chalfant's followed both pieces of advice. He has premiered songs of Boston composer Brian Cobb at the Berklee School of Music, and Sara Doncato's six "Biblical Sonnets" with orchestra on the New Music at Brandeis University Concert Series.

## Recital singing

Chalfant prides himself on being a recital singer, equating it to the "big art form of opera but

instead of all the flamboyant costumes and props there's one person standing there in the curve of the piano."

"An audience member may be more familiar with a Beethoven Sonata and not as familiar with a Brahms song or Gabriel Faure. You have to have the ability to be involved with the poetic essence and have an honesty with the material at hand and be familiar with the music and literature. That's what brought me to recital singing. Well-performed music is something not being done by rote. You have to put intention and meaning into what you're singing. You have to make music come alive to people."

Honesty is the reason Chalfant traveled to the Paris Conservatory for private diction coaching and to refine those aspects of his singing that would be detected by a Parisian ear.

"It all goes back to my theme of honesty. I have to be as profi-

cient as possible with the language and that includes not only French but Italian and German. I have a fascination with French culture but it goes back to maintaining an honesty in my singing," said Chalfant, who also has a degree in French literature.

"When I sing a recital I have to be polished. When we go to another country, we don't expect to ask for the bathroom in English. You have to make an effort. It involves active listening. That's part of the joy. It's like going to France and Germany with these three or four poems. The more they travel, the richer the experience. By exploring something different, you learn humanity is all the same. Listening to a love song in German as English. It's all about a boy and girl finding each other and falling in love."

# In the future, let's remember artists who tell our story



Are you one of the many who received the gift of a millennium time capsule over the holidays? If so, it's likely storing a fruitcake or some other item that you haven't figured out what to do with yet. ... The intent, of course, is to

gather items that reflect your family experience at the turn of the century. The hit is that if the item is practical, you're still using it and probably don't wish to tuck it away now. If trendy, you don't consider it significant enough to be preserved. I'm not sure I want to saddle my ancestors with the responsibility of trying to figure out Pokemon when I don't understand the craze myself.

As we face the challenge of assembling our personal or family history, we realize the innate flaws of any chronicle of people, culture, and events. George

Washington and Abraham Lincoln will be remembered this month, but we aren't getting the full story unless we gain a perspective of the people and issues of their time. Imagine the obstacles in developing an accurate history of African Americans.

Against the backdrop of centuries of oppression and poverty, we wonder how many stories of achievement and courage have not been told.

## The whole story

Walter Allen Bailey has devoted much of his life to research of the black experience, from the pre-Revolutionary War period to the present. Although the depth of his studies could fill many textbooks, it is the power of Bailey's art that effectively tells the whole story.

On the next edition of Detroit Public TV's BACKSTAGE PASS series, to be aired 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, producer Alex Kimbrough takes viewers to the African Heritage Cultural Center and Museum, where Bailey's permanent exhibit of thirty

murals depict the experiences of African Americans through the centuries.

His work, entitled "The Whole Story: A Teaching, Learning Concept of African American History," consists of the collection of his art and is accompanied by text. It is emerging as an imaginative and engrossing education-

al tool, with over one hundred schools throughout the Detroit area and the nation using it as a curriculum supplement.

The challenge of gaining historical perspective is to reach beyond the biographical. George Washington and Abraham Lincoln reflect just a snapshot of our nation. A generation ago,

much of our studies during Black History Month involved the noteworthy achievements of men such as George Washington Carver and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The research, talent and passion of Walter Allen Bailey is now making the whole story available, not just for students,

but for us all.

A Detroit area turn-of-the-century time capsule might include corporate headquarters, a new stadium of two, and even a casino.

Let's make sure it also makes space for the work of Walter Bailey and other artists who vividly tell our story.

## DINING EVENTS

Send dinner specials, menu changes, restaurant renovations, and other items for consideration in the Entertainment section to: Keely Wygnik, Assistant Managing Editor, Features Group, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax, (734) 591-2279 or e-mail: [kwygnyk@ox.homecomm.net](mailto:kwygnyk@ox.homecomm.net).

■ Chinese New Year Celebration — Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 7-9 at New Peking Chinese Restaurant, in Garden City. The

New Peking will have a dancing dragon the first night of celebration. Entertainment also features fan dancing.

The 12-course new year dinner features seafood, meat and vegetables.

New Peking is at 29105 Ford Road, Garden City. Call (734) 425-2230 for reservations and information about the Chinese New Year feast.

■ A Taste of Franco Fenat — 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Feb. 10-11 at Morels, a Michigan Bistro, 30100 Telegraph, just north of 12 Mile Road, Bingham Farms. The cost is \$45 per person, plus tax and gratuity.

Call (248) 642-1094, Ext. 3 for reservations.

URC Corporate Chef Jim Burnett celebrates Valentine's Day with a menu of authentic French favorites and an array of French wines hand-selected by URC Master Sommelier Madeline Trifun.

■ Valentine's Day Dinner Dance — Saturday, Feb. 12, Waterman Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. The evening begins 7 p.m. with dinner — tomato bisque, salad, rock Cornish game hen, twice baked sweet potato and asparagus, and Bavarian apple cheesecake for dessert. Then dance the night away to the music of Johnny Trudell. Tickets are \$37.50 per person, call (734) 462-4417 for reservations.

■ Old Country Buffet — is offering a free lunch or dinner to couples who have been 50 years or more on Monday, Feb. 14. Bring your marriage license to redeem your free meal. You can also pose with your loved one for a free photo, which can be picked up later.

Visit Old Country Buffet in Canton Township at 5854 N. Sheldon Road, (734) 207-8737 or in Westland at 6539 N. Wayne Road, (734) 595-8201.

■ Mardi Gras Brewers Dinner — 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27 at Bonfire Bistro & Brewery, 39550 Seven Mile Road, Northville. The cost is \$50 per person, all tables reserved, call (734) 735-4570.

Chef David Platzer and brewer Ron Jeffries are teaming up to present a five course meal and a pre-selected beer per course. The entree is Rotisserie Cornish Game Hen served with andouille sausage and crawfish corn bread stuffing over red and yellow pepper coulis.

We've got millions for you to win. And with a little luck, you could be one of the new MotorCity Millionaires.

Some people put years into making their first million, you can make yours in just a few seconds. Introducing MotorCity Millionaires: the biggest, most exciting slot promotion to rev up the MotorCity. With just one "lucky coin" in any of our 2,600 slots, you could be the newest MotorCity Millionaire. That "lucky coin" could be a token in your slot cup, the ten dollar bill in your pocket, or one of the remaining credits on your machine. So, no matter how you like to play your favorite slots, maybe just maybe, the next coin you play will start your \$1,000,000\* celebration!

**MotorCity Millionaires.**  
One Coin ... One Million Dollars. Play Today!

\*\$1,000,000 awarded over 20 years period. Complete rules available at any GM Motor City. MotorCity Casino and the MotorCity Casino logo are trademarks of Detroit Entertainment, LLC © 1997 Detroit Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.



If you ever more than you can afford to lose, you've got a problem. Call 1-800-270-7117 for confidential help.

Michigan Department of Consumer Protection  
1-800-270-7117

## NOVI EXPO CENTER

Thursday, February 3, 2pm-10pm  
Friday, February 4, 2pm-10pm  
Saturday, February 5, 10am-10pm  
Sunday, February 6, 10am-7pm

The 2000 Home Improvement Show at the Novi Expo Center promises to be more exciting than ever.

It's the first show of the new year, where you'll find new ideas, products and services for your home as well as new featured attractions, demonstrations and events.

**ADMISSION:**  
Adults - \$6.50, Seniors - \$4.50, Children 6-12 - \$3.00  
Children under 6 - FREE



## OVER 300 EXHIBITORS... PLUS:

- Beverly Delujo, host of PBS' "Handy Ma'm" and The Discovery Channel's "Barny Does It," shares her how-to expertise by offering tips from repairs to improvements and redecorating that make life easier around the house.
- WIFR's "The Appliance Doctor" Joe Gagnon and "The Garden Show" Dean Krauskopf.
- WXYZ's "Ask the Handyman" Glenn Haegge, "Money Talk" Rick Bloom and "PC Talk" Mike Wenzland on Saturday and Sunday.
- Presentations on decorating, home repair and remodeling.
- Treasure Chest contest with daily prizes.

**NOVI EXPO CENTER**  
1-96 & NOVI RD.  
FEBRUARY 3-6, 2000  
[www.builders.org](http://www.builders.org)