

# Valentine from page C1

who is exchanging his baton for a violin for this concert. It's like playing music at home for friends."

Schesiuk's daughter, pianist Anna Sorokhtei, and her trio will play the first movement of a Rhapsody by Charles Loeffler. Joni Day and Nenad Djordjevic join Sorokhtei on oboe and viola. "Charles Loeffler was a French composer," said Schesiuk. "He grew up in Ukraine. He liked to use poetry in his music. Poetry is closer to real language. It's more abstract."

Carl Karoub helped Schesiuk plan the program which includes Mozart's "Divertimento for Six Winds." Ever since Karoub

began playing French horn in 1944 and through 16 years as a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, he's loved compositions written in the 18th century. Karoub also arranges music. The audience will hear his handiwork on Webber's "All I Ask of You."

"We wanted to do chamber music from past and present - little nuggets for Valentine's Day," said Karoub. "Some of it pre-dates the idea of public concerts when it was played for nobility. The Divertimento shows how winds were played in the 18th century before valves were invented. It's like the bugle which has no valves. You play

**'To me, the violin is the closest instrument to human voice. That's why it's so beloved. It has a singing-voice quality.'**

**Xiang Gao**  
*Violinist*

with that same idea."

### Emerging talent

Livonia Symphony concertmaster Xiang Gao shares his love of violin when he solos on the instrument in Bach's "Siciliano." Gao started studying violin at age eight with his parents

who were then members of the Beijing Symphony. Tan, his father, and Zhiling, his mother, now perform with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra and will join Gao on stage for the concert.

Gao came to the U.S. with his parents after winning the China National Violin Competition in

1991. Tan and Zhiling recognized Gao's talents early. By age 11, he was attending the China Central Conservatory of Music, a school similar to Interlochen Arts Academy. Gao went on to win the prestigious Aspen Music Festival Competition at age 22 in 1996.

"To me, violin is the closest instrument to human voice," said Gao. "That's why it's so beloved. It has a singing-voice quality. And it's incredibly difficult to play. Many pieces were written for violin instead of voice because we don't have to breathe and can play endless lines."

In demand as a soloist, Gao will perform 20 concerts this sea-

son. In August, he was a soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under conductor Neema Jarvi at the Interlochen Arts Festival. He'll perform again with Jarvi at the David Oistrakh Music Festival in Estonia in July.

Gao released his first solo CD, "Kind of Colorful," on Frestant Records last spring. It features a violin piano sonata and virtuoso pieces with pianists Howard Watkins and Martin Katz.

For more information about Xiang Gao visit his Web site at [www.artsof.com/sgao](http://www.artsof.com/sgao)

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images to public," said Owczarski. "For me the abstract work is very easy. Portraits are more difficult. I'm looking for expression in my art to communicate."

Owczarski began working with stainless steel in Poland in 1957 as a student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Although he's worked with a variety of materials throughout his career, Owczarski concluded that steel was the most logical medium for the age since its industrialized uses were meant, at the very least to make life easier, if not better."

"Stainless steel sculpture is harder to make and demands a temperature five times higher than iron but later is permanent," said Owczarski, whose work can be found in the permanent collections of Cranbrook Educational Community (Copenicus) and the University of Michigan-Dearborn (Marie Curie). "You don't have to worry about rust but it is difficult to work with. Stainless steel is twisting then crystallizing and sometimes I come back later to find an expression has changed."

### Modern Polish art

Thaddeus Rudzinski, a historian and president of St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, sees beyond the unusual medium of stainless steel into the heart of Owczarski's sculpture. Rudzinski will speak about Owczarski's work, and the relationship between modern Polish culture and history during a lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

"Marian's medium is distinctive but represents the kinds of

themes that marks modern Polish art and literature," said Rudzinski. "The abstract nudes and crucifix are tortured figures protesting wars. Marian uses the jagged edges and hard line to protest against war."

"As a result of the Polish uprising in 1944, Hitler retaliated and ordered the city to be destroyed. Marian brings with him that terrible tragic sense."

In addition to his sculpture, Owczarski is exhibiting examples of modern Polish art such as posters and etchings. Rudzinski will talk about the role

Poland's history played in shaping these works.

In 1795, Poland had been the central country in Europe for 600 years," said Rudzinski. "A series of tragic, romantic uprisings resulted in the best young people ending up on the gallows or in Siberia. Polish artists went to study in St. Petersburg and Paris and returned with their ideas. The 20th century popularized Polish posters, developed before World War II. The poster is one of the distinctive marks of the 20th century, a protest against the drabness of life

under communism."

In his lecture, Rudzinski will also touch upon the "Art Deco - Poland" exhibit continuing through March 6 at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. Many of the works were showcased in the 1939 World's Fair in New York. They never returned to Poland because of Hitler's invasion.

"Polish artists looked consciously to the west for models," said Rudzinski, "not so much as students but part of that."



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news leads to Art Beat, Observer Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 691-7279.

**OPENING RECEPTION**  
Meet artist Michael Ragins at an opening reception 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10 in the Exhibit Gallery at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft Road at Levan, Livonia. The public is invited to attend this free event. Ragins exhibits his sculptures

and paintings through Friday, March 10. Ragins received his bachelor of fine arts degree in sculpture and painting from the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, and a certificate for K-12 art education and social science from Marygrove College. For more information, call (734) 432-8710.

**CONCERT'S PROFITS 'GO TO THE DOGS'**  
Westland flutist Natasha

Harhold, Donna Kallie, a Madonna University music professor; Benjamin Hayes (French horn), and Evola Music teachers Cathy Feldman (flute) and her father, Irving will perform a concert to benefit TLC Greyhound Adoption 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12 in Kresge Hall at Madonna University, 36500 Schoolcraft at Levan, Livonia.

Tickets are \$5 adults, \$3 students. For more information, call (734) 765-2248 or e-mail [greyhoundlog@earthlink.net](mailto:greyhoundlog@earthlink.net).

TLC Greyhound Adoption is a nonprofit organization that secures homes for greyhounds after their racing days are over. Those interested in adopting can visit the Web site at [www.access-one.com/greyhound/index.htm](http://www.access-one.com/greyhound/index.htm)

### OUT OF AFRICA

The quilt show, "Pricing Memory," continues through Friday, March 3 at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor.

Stunning designs and vibrant colors mark the dozen quilts crafted by African American women. Each quilt tells a story and during selected times, interpreters will be available to unlash the secrets in the threads.

Come listen and learn how the experts weave together the delicate patterns 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12. Admission is \$3 adults, \$1 children.

### CALL FOR ARTISTS

Oakland Community College's Womencenter is looking for entries for its 14th annual art exhibit, "Our Visions: Women in Art." The exhibit is scheduled for May 8-19 in the Wallace Smith Theatre Gallery at the college's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

Deadline for entry is April 1. For more information or an entry form, call (248) 471-7092 or write the Womencenter at Oakland Community College, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48334.

Visual art (excluding jewelry, performance and video) and poetry are being sought for the exhibit for which cash prizes will be awarded. Jurors for "Our Visions" are Gail mally-mack and Jenny Schmid (visual art), and Carla Haryman (poetry).

**Make Your Destination: Cranbrook and Cranbrook Institute of Science for February Fun!**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS**

**AFRICA!**  
This temporary display showcases a special collection of African art objects used for call activities as well as those intended for special occasions. Through March 5.

**SUNDAY BRUNCH AND SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES**  
Descendants of an African Tradition: Examining Ethnographic Relationships Between Yoruba and African-American Art Production  
Sunday, February 13  
Guest Speaker: Jon O. Lockard, Adjunct Lecturer, The University of Michigan Center for Afro-American and African Studies. Lockard introduces the basic principles of Yoruba art, a product of the dominant West African culture, and its relationship to contemporary African-American art. 11am brunch, room factors. For ticket prices and registration call 248-645-1210.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN SCIENTISTS WEEK**  
Friday, February 14-Friday, February 18, 11am-4pm  
Hands-on activities and take-home projects based on the work of African-American scientists of the past and present. For elementary age students; free with museum admission.

**GOSPEL CONCERT**  
Saturday, February 19, 8-9pm  
The Institute and the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum present Gospel Showcases: African and Black. Tickets are \$10 per person and include museum admission and strolling by the band. Reservations required; call 248-645-5210.

**OTHER EXHIBITS & EVENTS:**  
New long-term exhibits: *Every Rock Has a Story: The Motion Gallery*, *Reading, Writing and Living*, *New Traveling Exhibits: Time My Picture Places: A Festival of Color*, *and more!*

**PLANTARIUM PROGRAMS**  
Sunday, February 13  
Planet Alignment 2000!  
Lunar Spring

**SPECIAL PLANTARIUM PROGRAMS**  
February 14-18

**STARRY NIGHTS**  
The Institute and Observatory remain open until 10pm with Planetarium presentations: *Reflections: Stars and Society!*

**FOSILS OF PREHISTORIC MICHIGAN**  
Adult Science Class  
February 14, 11 & 18

**HOOT OUT**  
Friday, February 11, 7-9pm

**MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL**  
Saturday, February 19 and Sunday, February 27-11am

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