

# Festival from page C1

Nardin Park has a 14-year history of promoting music with a series of concerts which most recently featured New York baritone Erik Chalfant. So when Miller looked around the church at the art works received as memorial gifts through the years, it sparked the idea to have an art exhibit surrounded by plenty of music.

### Musical offering

Miller hopes to attract people, other than art patrons, into the church by offering concerts by the Tonda Elementary choir; Kingdom Heirs, the host quartet for the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Tennessee; the Oakland Singers, and the Hildebe School Harmony Choir & Handchimes, 120 voices strong from the Farmington School District.

"We have a lot of interesting art in our church that a lot of members and visitors aren't aware of," said Miller. "We want to invite those artists to show their work and to invite the community to give the artists a venue. We wanted to bring in musical groups that would attract a different audience. If we didn't have the other things going on, we'd be like any other art show."

In addition to the concerts,

### "Let Your Spirit Soar"

**What:** Celebration of the visual and performing arts which includes art exhibit, concerts, workshops and speakers

**When:** Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2. Art exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

**Where:** Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29687 W. 11 Mile Road, west of Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

**Tickets:** Events are free except for Kingdom Heirs gospel concert 8 p.m. Saturday (\$8). Call (248) 476-8860

#### Highlights:

■ 10 a.m. Saturday - Children's musical activity followed by mural painting session or dance experience

■ 2 p.m. Saturday - Concert by choir from Plymouth-Canton Schools' Tonda Elementary

■ 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday - Worship services (jazz and gospel) featuring choirs, soloists and Waterford clarinetist David Bennett

■ 9:30 a.m. Sunday - Redford sculptor Sergio DeGiusti "Artistic Creation"

Rob Koch, director of the Tonda Elementary choir and the children's choir at Nardin Park, will lead a musical workshop for children Saturday morning.

"We want to attract families, parents looking for a quality experience for their kids," said Miller. "After the music workshop children can choose to add butterflies or flowers to a spring mural or participate in a dance workshop led by the liturgical dance group, 'Lyrical Expression.'"

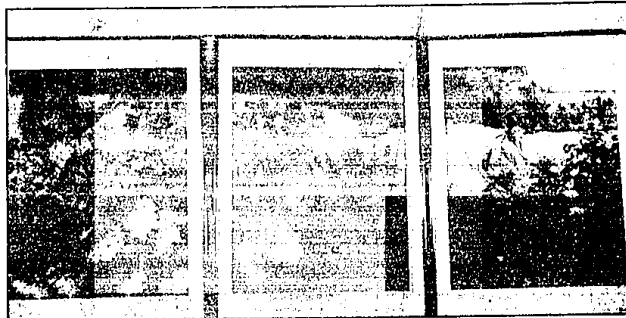
Melvin Rookus, Nardin Park minister of music, will team up

with Koch to instill a musical interest in the children.

"The music workshop is an opportunity for kids who may or may not have had musical experience," said Rookus. "The emphasis is on children this weekend, to expose them to the arts."

### New venue

Marjorie Hogan Chellstorp is one of the artists grateful for the opportunity to exhibit her work at Nardin Park. The Farmington Hills watercolorist first became aware of the church when she



**Celebration:** This seven-foot triptych by Marjorie Hogan Chellstorp is one of the works in "Let Your Spirit Soar," a festival spotlighting the visual and performing arts.

was commissioned to paint a triptych as a memorial gift in honor of Muriel Thomas. An instructor at Madonna University, the Visual Arts Association of Livonia, and the Belian Art Center in Troy, Hogan Chellstorp has exhibited extensively. In 1997, one of her paintings was on display in the Michigan Water Color Society's 60th anniversary exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"Exhibiting is what artists do," said Hogan Chellstorp. "You want people to see your work. Having a special show for artists brings in people who wouldn't go to a gallery."

Among the other artists exhibiting their work are painters Jerri Followack, Sook-Kyung Hong, Peggy Smith, Gwen Tomkow, and Howard Weingarden of Farmington Hills;

William A. Brown, basket weaving; Farmington Hills; Sergio DeGiusti, sculpture, Redford; Suzanne Bauman, painting, Bloomfield Hills; Kevin Bauman, landscape photography, Royal Oak; Kogham Tazian, sculpture/painting, Farmington Hills; Toshi Shimoura, flower arranging, Southfield; Donna Vogelheim, painting, Walled Lake, and Bernadette Zachara, sculpture, Farmington Hills.

# Dance from page C1

the killing continues as we've seen and it's not just one cultural group."

### Making a difference

Kramer and Selinger believe in making a difference. In addition to the 16-20 formal concerts a year they perform in a variety of venues and choreographing pieces such as "Travelers,"

they'll take their dances to 350 classes in the Farmington and Detroit Schools by the end of the year. Their outreach program has been a part of who they are since the beginning 20 years ago as has their "Downtown Dance-about Concert." The Friday, April 7 concert at Music Hall introduces upper elementary through high school students to

**'Artists have a responsibility to contribute to the community. We're not just entertainment but about learning and challenging the senses and imagination.'**

Paula Kramer

Co-founder, Detroit Dance Collective

modern choreography. "We want to challenge the imagination of young viewers," said Kramer. "They are our future. Without these young people there will be no dancers or an audience."

Funding from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and donations from corporations and individuals allow the dance company to keep ticket

prices to a minimum. It also helps fund the programs in schools and purchase tickets for those who could not otherwise afford to attend. Hudson's and Bank One were the major contributors that make the gala concert possible.

"Artists have a responsibility to contribute to the community," said Kramer. "We're not just entertainment but about learning and challenging the senses and imagination. Modern dance companies have a long way to go. We're asking you to delve a little deeper, be introspective and people may not want to know about these things."

# Eisenhower Dance ensemble to perform at Smith Theatre

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, Michigan's premiere contemporary dance company, will perform 8 p.m. Friday, April 7 at the Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College.

Tickets are \$16, call (248) 471-7667. OCC is on Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696 in Farmington Hills.

The concert had originally been scheduled for Feb. 18, but was canceled due to inclement weather.

This performance will include athletic and engaging repertory by artistic director Laurie Eisenhower and internationally known choreographers, Colin Connor and Billy Siegenfeld.

The ensemble will perform several ensemble pieces including "Lunacy," a new work by Siegenfeld that will leave the audience dancing in their seats. The company commissioned Siegenfeld's work, a rhythmically complex, upbeat, and fun-loving romp, earlier this season.

Set to the music of Gavin Bryars, Colin Connor's work, titled "Pyre" explores the dramatic impression of one individual passing from this existence leaves on those remaining behind.

Eisenhower adds her voice to the program with "Moon Dances." Set to a Robert Mornan composition, this work blends ensemble asymmetry with lyrical virtuosity. Other repertory favorites will round out the program.

"I am looking forward to presenting my company once again at Oakland Community College's Smith Theatre," said Eisenhower. "It's a lovely little theater."

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