

# Expressions from page C1

part the Players at the gala, and have a little fun while you're doing it.

"We're looking to develop the building's use when we're not there," said Hadley. "The lobby will be a nice big open space for displays by artists. It's a perfect symbiosis. Rotating displays of art will allow us to decorate and the artists to exhibit."

By the way, the 2000-2001 season will open in September with Neil Simon's *Fools on the Loose* and Nobles on Orchard Lake Road between 14 and 16 Milo roads in West Bloomfield. The entire season is scheduled to take place there.

Have an interesting idea for a

**'We're looking to develop the building's use when we're not there. The lobby will be a nice big open space for displays by artists.'**

*Phil Hadley*  
Farmington Players member

story? Call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 853-2146 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.com

# Clay from page C1

Herb Babcock and Susan Beiner will award a \$1,500 Best of Show and several 8750 Honorable Mentions.

**Entertainment**

But it's not all glass and clay. The main stage on Washington in Lincoln will feature several of the arena's hottest musicians including Stewart Franko on Saturday night and Sinatra-sound-alike Mark Randall Sunday afternoon. And don't forget to bring the kids. On the Fifth Avenue walkway, children will be able to make projects with the help of Arts & Scraps, Great Lakes Handworkers Guild and the Scarab Club. A silent auction of items donated by artists and local businesses will benefit Gilda's Club.

"It's a unique event — the only clay and glass fest in the U.S.," said Kuffler. "There's so many other art fairs that have mixed media. We try to approach it differently. It's a great opportunity for collectors to find a great variety from porcelain and stoneware to fused, flameworked and blown glass."

One element all of the artists have in common is their need to grow and experiment within their particular mediums. Kathy Sandberg began working in clay 29 years ago and hasn't stopped trying new techniques, glazes and forms ever since. From her Plymouth studio, she literally

creates something for everyone. Now in her fourth year in Royal Oak, Sandberg will bring new figurative work to the show along with the tried and true vessels, Japanese flower arranging pots known as ikabana, and abstract slabs that double as decorative art and serving pieces. Sandberg works primarily in white and cream with a hint of color. Her opalescent glazes are almost like a chameleon in that they pick up the color of nearby objects.

"There's a wide variety in Royal Oak," said Sandberg. "Everything imaginable done is clay is there. I'm changing direction from vessels to wall art. I'm always trying something new. Clay responds to your hands and emotions. Glass is related to clay. That's what glaze is. It's really made of the same components as glass. That's why I enjoy showing with glass artists. We work with similar materials."

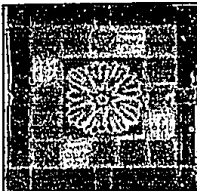
In addition to experience, Sandberg's studies reflect in her work. Over the years, she's learned from the best ceramists in the area including John Murphy, a Redford potter and instructor at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. She's also taken classes and seminars at Pewabic Pottery in Detroit and with John Glick at Plum Tree Pottery in Farmington. In 1999, a week-long class with Dr. Arthur Park

and Mary Park exposed Sandberg to the Korean wheel thrown process. A founding member of Village Potters Guild in Plymouth, Sandberg currently teaches wheel thrown and hand-building techniques there.

"I enjoy selling my work at shows like Royal Oak," said Sandberg, who'll also exhibit at Art in the Park in Plymouth. "The majority buy for themselves, especially the larger pieces. They're looking for something different, original and handcrafted that has a piece of the artist in it."

**Tile work**

The Royal Oak Clay Invitational, as it was originally known, was one of the first art shows Sara Frank exhibited in. Since then, the West Bloomfield tile artist and owner of Igunnaworks studio, regularly shows her ceramic tiles and tables, mirrors and boxes accented with tile designs. In addition to Royal Oak, she'll bring tiles ranging in themes from nature to women, Judaism, dogs and cats, mythological (dragons, unicorns), nursery rhymes, and music to Art on the Avenue June 3-4 in Dearborn and the Wyandotte Art Fair July 12-16. Frank's love of music stems from all the years she's played flute, including her student days at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor.



Durable beauty: Flowers, like the one found on this tiled tabletop, is a favorite subject of Sara Frank.

"I really enjoy Royal Oak," said Frank. "When I began it was only clay. All of the variety it interesting and glass and clay are related."

Frank, who began working in clay in 1992, took classes at Pewabic Pottery in wheel throwing, glaze formulation and tile making. She initially studied pottery at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. Her special commissions include the creation of an Isaac Stern Tribute Tile for the University Musical Society in Ann Arbor in early May, and a recently-installed Mother Goose mural for the children's area of the West Bloomfield Library.

Annual 122nd **choral union** Ten Performances in Hill Auditorium

university musical society

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**Inland Synagogue Orchestra** — Judith Ingfissan-Katildottir — Thursday, October 12, 8 pm  
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**Bryn Terfel** — Wednesday, October 25, 8 pm  
42-1555515 by Book One

**Camerata Academicum Salzburg** — Roger Harrington conductor — Joshua Bell — Friday, November 10, 8 pm  
Presented with the generous support of Dr. Markovitch

**Dresden Smetanapelle** — Giuseppe Sinopoli conductor — Friday, February 2, 8 pm  
42-1555515 by Book One

**Dobrota Tenors** — Sunday, February 11, 4 pm  
This performance is made possible by the H. Gordon Actley Endowment Fund, established by Susan Actley in memory of her husband.

**Sea-Club Radio Synagogue Orchestra and Choir** — Verdi's Requiem — Friday, February 16, 8 pm  
42-1555515 by Book One

**Prague Chamber Orchestra/Ballet Arts Tite** — Wednesday, March 7, 8 pm  
42-1555515 by CD Group

**Ambassy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields** — Murray Perahia conductor and piano — Saturday, March 24, 8 pm  
42-1555515 by Public-Book/Professional Resources

**Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam** — Maurice Chilly conductor — Thursday, April 8, 8 pm  
42-1555515 by Public-Book/Professional Resources

The Choral Union Series is made possible with support from media sponsor MDRP P.L.C. INC.

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# Opera from page C1

been living with the *Grimes* CD in his car for months now.

"The score is so bizarre," he said. "One part of the chorus sings in one key, while another part sings in a completely different one. Then the principals sing something altogether different. The nice part is when we put it all together."

While the Michigan Opera Theatre's last production, *Tosca*, had only one scene that utilized a full chorus, in *Grimes*, the cho-

rus performs the function of a main character.

It is the principal role other than Peter Grimes," said Suzanne Acton, the MOT's chorus master.

"I would say it is the most difficult English opera, and the chorus is most important for its success. There is so much for them to do, so many lines for them to memorize."

Which explains why *Grimes*, which made its world premiere

in 1945 in London, is not widely performed.

The MOT chorus, which has been under Acton's direction for nearly 20 years, is ready for the challenge.

### Rumors abound

The modern opera, based on George Crabbe's poem *The Borough*, tells of a coastal fisherman driven to madness by the suspicious and hypocritical villagers.

The chorus serves the role of the nosy neighbor who lives to gossip and judge. Only rarely does it look inward.

Grimes (played on alternate dates by Mark Baker and John MacMaster) is considered the anti-hero, he is neither noble nor nefarious, yet he is driven to his end by a tragic man-hunt.

"The psychological things in this score are unbelievable," said Acton.

Certainly the church scene where Ellen (Grimes' love interest played by Sheri Greenwald) discovers that he has abused his apprentice is riveting.

"He sings to Ellen of how he's worked so hard to get respect. 'Believe in me,' he sings while

the chorus is singing 'Believe in God.' There is a clash of the spiritual and secular," said Acton.

### English lyrics

That happens quite often during the opera, where there is a juxtaposition between characters and, though they may sing the same passage, the words have two different meanings.

Though the opera is sung in English, surtitles are still present since, quite often, the chorus and soloists are not singing in unison.

The last English opera the MOT performed was *Porgy & Bess* in 1998.

Each of the opera's six scenes are introduced by orchestral pieces, which serve as characterful tone poems.

Dark and stormy, these develop the turmoil in Grimes' character. And for the chorus, these interludes provide the only respite from performance.

"*Tosca* had only minor things for the chorus," said Smith. "This isn't like *Tosca*, where we played eucure backstage during the show. Either the chorus is on-stage or backstage singing."

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FREE ADMISSION

Art in the Village is a free, family-friendly art festival held in the heart of the Village of Grosse Pointe Woods. It features a wide variety of art displays, demonstrations, and performances. The festival is held on the grounds of the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center.

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23 Pure Prairie League/Poco  
24 Steven Wright  
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27 Harry Connick Jr. & His Big Band  
30 Weir Al Yankovic

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1 Martina McBride  
2 Get Back! The Cast of Beatlemania  
3 Todd Rundgren & Lew Solov  
12 Maurice Sendak's Little Bear  
13 Natalie Merchant  
16 "Grease" Featuring Chely Wright & Eddie Fike  
17 "Carnegie" from Leverage & Shiloh  
26 Scholastic's The Magic School Bus...Live!  
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10 John Berry/Suzi Quagga/Billy Dean  
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