

## MUSIC

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BY SANDRA TOLBERT  
SPECIAL WRITER

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra's 2000-2001 season offers an extraordinary sampling of early symphonies and contemporary world premieres.

Ishak Perlman, who will be Detroit's principal guest conductor and violinist in the 2001-2002 season, is already a major highlight this year.

Famous in the classical music world for his stellar violin performances, Perlman has appeared with every major orchestra in the world and owns 15 Grammy awards. He will appear in a May 2001 concert as conductor and soloist performing a Mozart adagio and rondo for violin and orchestra.

In January, the winter season welcomes back violinist Joshua Bell to perform *Sibelius' Violin Concerto*. The former child prodigy, who made his DSO debut in 1988, is now a highly sought-after soloist.

The DSO's 86th season's theme, "Share the Music," recognizes the communal experience music brings to musicians, conductor and audience. The giving, taking and sharing of music, sound, harmony and its message — beautiful and sometimes dissonant — are what this season is all about.

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Sept. 20 with Mahler's Resurrection Symphony No. 2 conducted by Detroit's Maestro Neeme Järvi.

Järvi, now in his 11th year as maestro, will conduct the DSO at Orchestra Hall for 10 weeks of the season, presenting both familiar and unusual works.

The four world premieres

include DSO composer-in-residence Michael Daugherty's *Hell's Angels* and *Motor City*; a concerto by Michigan composer William Bolcom, and a symphony by American composer John Campbell, who describes his compositions as "an amalgam of European and American influences."

Järvi is also conducting Mahler's Symphony No. 1 *Titan* and personal favorites like Eduard Tubin's *Music for Strings* and the Schumann Piano Concerto.

Favorite guest conductors will include Estonian native Eri Klas, Polish-born Jerzy Semkow, and Van Pascual Tortelier of the BBC Philharmonic who will lead the DSO in Messiaen's *Turangalila*.

The Turangalila symphony, a complex and contemporary work, will be a DSO first featuring an unusual keyboard instrument called the Ondes Martenot. The

March concert will include a short introduction by conductor Tortelier explaining the new instrument.

An all Mozart evening, Beethoven's *Fifth*, Orff's *Carmen*, *Burana* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 are several of the well-known and cherished works also being offered this season.

The fall season also includes Czech composer Janacek's *Sinfonietta* and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 *Leningrad*, a remembrance of the city's 900 day struggle against the Nazis.

In March, violinist Hilary Hahn, known internationally as one of today's rising performance musicians, will bring her talent to the Detroit stage with Barber's Violin Concerto.

The winter season offers more orchestral greats such as Tchaikovsky's infrequently performed *Manfred Symphony*, Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, Beethoven's *Eroica*, Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9* from the New World Symphony and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Yet with all the international flavor, the DSO hasn't forgotten its own. This season will spot-

light a few of its outstanding musicians. Principal trombone Kenneth Thompson will play George Walker's *Trombone Concerto* and Jeffrey Zook will be the featured soloist in a Vivaldi piccolo concerto.

The charismatic DSO violinist and concertmaster Emmanuelle Béjart will close the 2001 season as soloist of *The Lark Ascending* by Vaughan-Williams.

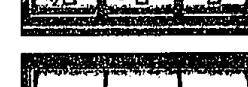
Pop conductor Erich Kunzel will bring the "Pop Season" to Detroit, highlighting a sports extravaganza called *Sounds of the Stadium*. Broadway musicals, epic movie music and all-time pop favorites are also part of the lively program.

Guest performers include Debbie Reynolds, the Magic Circle Mime Company and a traditional Christmas concert featuring the DSO Pop Festival Singers.

The *America's Paradise Jazz Series* features the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Branford Marsalis, Regina Carter Quintet and Renee Rosnes Trio among its highlights.

And if you need to talk about the art of making music, *ConcertTalks* offers one hour before all classical evening concerts in Orchestra Hall. They are intimate and informal gatherings where you will find host Charles Greenwell, guest soloists and conductors, critics and musicians — an opulent recipe for the perfect evening.

Subscription packages for the 2000-2001 season are now on sale. Individual tickets will go on sale in late August, 2000. For further information call the DSO subscription office at (313) 876-6120.



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## Comic books are becoming valid art form

It's not uncommon for a debate to surface among the producers of Detroit Public TV's *BACKSTAGE PASS* concerning the merits of a certain art form. The most recent occurred several weeks ago when segment producer Todd Hastings was pushing the arts series to do something on "sequential art."

It was a new term for me, too. As it turns out, sequential art is best known as comic book art. To be honest, it was a pretty tough sell for Todd, because most of the people associated with the show were saying things like, "Oh, you mean *Superman*, *Batman*, *Archie*, and *Nicole*?"

Although we would admit to being just-head fans, there were non-believers everywhere when presented with the notion of comic books as a valid art form.

Todd made a strong case for the genre on an edition of the program that aired this week.

"Comic books aren't just for kids anymore," Hastings said. "It is a storyteller's medium that accommodates a variety of techniques and approaches. Some very striking work is being done today in water colors, oils, digital photography and pen and ink."

**Todd Hastings**  
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Practitioners of sequential art are revered in Japan and Europe. Although comic artists like Milo Manara are acclaimed in Europe, American artists feel they haven't received their due. That's why it earned a spot on *BACKSTAGE PASS*. We let our viewers decide.

Last year we sent producer Barry Steinberg out in the field to do a story on a pair of Detroit area artists whose frustration with youth violence had prompted them to transform donated handguns into sculptures with a powerful anti-violence theme. Maybe you question whether

weapons are suitable materials for the creation of art. You'll have the opportunity to judge for yourself when the segment, which was nominated for an Emmy by the Michigan chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS), is rebroadcast in an

edition that airs at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, June 8.

The same episode features a segment by Dave Toorangan on the history of the Rivera murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts that captured an Emmy at the May 20 NATAS ceremonies.

You can count on the producers of *BACKSTAGE PASS* to continue to bring you into the debate of what's art and what isn't.

After all, why should they have all the fun?



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Friday, June 2  
Gates open at 3 p.m.

Kimmie Horne  
Alfonzo Blackwell  
Keiko Matsui • Earl Klugh

Saturday, June 3  
Gates open at 12 noon  
Tim Bowman  
Alexander Zonjic & Friends  
Roger Smith • Dave Koz  
George Benson • Alex Bugnon

Sunday, June 4  
Gates open at 12 noon  
Modern Tribe • Ken Navarro  
Brian Culbertson  
with Special Guest Lori Perry  
Doc Powell • Rick Braun  
Boney James

Tickets available at all TicketMaster locations and the Southfield Civic Center. Charge by Phone at (248) 645-6666. Tickets for Friday, \$15 each; Saturday & Sunday \$25 per ticket/day. Prices at the gate: Friday, \$20; Saturday/Sunday \$30.

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