

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Audiences will be dancing in the grass at Heritage

Grab a blanket and head for the car. The Stars in the Park concert series is about to begin. Sponsored by the Cultural Arts Division of Farmington Hills Special Services Department, the free series spotlights music sure to please everyone's tastes, 8 p.m. Thursdays in Heritage Park.

From the classical strains of the Matinee String Quartet June 15 to award-winning jazz vocalist Sheila Landis and the Brazilian Love Affair July 13, audiences will be able to sit in the grass, listen to their favorite tunes and maybe even get up and dance.

Long-time crowd pleasers, the Farmington Community Band led by Paul Barber, kicks off the series June 8.

"For years past the chamber of commerce sponsored the series. This year we wanted to add some outside groups and still keep our wonderful community groups that have been the mainstay of the series," said Nancy Coumoundours, coordinator of the Cultural Arts Division of Farmington Hills Special Services Department.

"We hope people will come out because number one it's free and it's in such a beautiful setting. It's nice to bring the family out to the park and have some entertainment with your picnic dinner."

"I'm excited about all of the groups including the Matinee String Quartet affiliated with Oakland University. It's always nice to hear popular songs played on strings. Sometimes you only think of strings as classical."

If you love Latin American music, don't miss the Brazilian Love Affair, showcasing the vocal talent of Sheila Landis. The 6-piece group is sure to heat up the stage with their music influenced by Santana and Stevie Wonder.

On July 20, Immunity brings reggae with a twist of Detroit to the park as they perform songs from Bob Marley to Van Morrison's *Brown Eyed Girl*. Immunity has been nominated nearly two dozen times for Detroit Music Awards. In 1999, they won "Outstanding Reggae Artist/Group."

"Reggae has never been performed at the series before," said Coumoundours. "It's going to add a new flavor."

Rounding out the series style-wise, the Spirit of Detroit Sweets Adelines sing songs from Broadway to Motown, Big Band to Jazz Aug. 3. The Farmington Community Chorus closes the series with old favorites Aug. 10. The chorus celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Marching in tune

Barber and members of the Farmington Community Band can't wait to open the series June 8. A long-time Farmington resident and music coordinator for Farmington Public Schools, Barber expects the audience will once again be participating in the marches as well as enjoying the overtures and Broadway tunes from productions such as *Gypsies and Dolls*.

"Years ago we had our own series of summer concerts," said Barber. "It's different than a formal concert auditorium. We don't play as much serious repertoire and Heritage Park is a beautiful place to play. The community can count on music every Thursday except for during the Founders Festival (now the Farmington Area Family Festival). A lot of people get there almost an hour early to secure their spot. We're hoping in the future to get other community groups involved so we can have something for the audience to do while they're waiting."

Because of their popularity with the series' crowds, the Farmington Community Band returns for a second concert July 27. In between those two dates members of the 20-piece Com-

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Leaf Dancer: Nancy Hurd exhibits this colored pencil work in the fine arts exhibition inside the historic Greenmead buildings.

FINE ARTS

Arts fest brings color to Greenmead

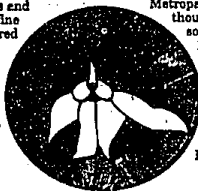
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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When Mary Mullison wanted to add a little color to her shade garden, she got creative. Not that she hadn't been before. Mullison, a Farmington resident, was band director at Redford Union High School for 12 years before quitting her job to raise a family.

"But it was the first stepping stone Mullison created at Canterbury Stained Glass in Rochester three years ago that set her on a new path. Before long the mother of three was experimenting with designs of dogs, cats, flowers, lighthouses and ducks for her new business 'Art Underfoot.' She'll bring a variety of the stained glass stepping stones to the 24th annual Livonia Arts Festival Saturday-Sunday, June 10-11, at Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia.

More than 200 artists will exhibit paintings, ceramics, jewelry, glass, photography, metal, wood, and fiber in the outdoor festival held in conjunction with the Fine Arts in the Village exhibit inside Greenmead's historic buildings. Both the arts and crafts festival and the fine arts exhibit are sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission.

"That's why I wanted to create that first stone," said Mullison. "I have shade gardens and wanted a splash of color. After taking the class I realized it's nice to see something take shape and be a concrete form. Each time I create a new design I choose a palette of glass, cut it then place it in a mold and fill the rest of the mold with



Garden art: Mary Mullison and husband Wendell created this stained glass stepping stone.

cement. It's an indirect mosaic technique."

Like Mullison, customers use the stepping stones in gardens or on patios and decks as a spot of color. Some customers even hang them on walls. Another had one of the stones set permanently into a foyer floor. There's no doubt, they're sturdy. Mullison's letter carrier has been walking on the stained glass stones for three years.

"Flowers are popular with customers," said Mullison, who'll also display the stones in the Liberty Fest Fine Art Show in Canton Saturday-Sunday, June 24-25. "People want to have flowers in their garden. It's a flower you never have to worry about dying."

Nature of Kensington

Ted Nelson thinks a lot of people are longing to commune with nature whether it's in a garden or park. Judging by the response to his photographs of deer, birds and landscapes, Nelson is right. *The Nature of Kensington*, a book featuring more than 100 photographs shot at the Metropark, has sold several thousand copies since Nelson self-published it in 1999.

Not one to ignore the marketing potential of the photographs, the Canton photographer will exhibit nine images from his book at the Livonia Arts Festival. Last year, he sold only the book at art fairs. This summer, in addition to the Livonia Arts Festival, Nelson will exhibit photographs at 10 shows including Art in the

Park in Plymouth July 14-16.

"It's nature photography," said Nelson, who retired from his position as a science teacher at West Bloomfield High School two years ago. "I think people have a need to reconnect with nature and for some people who are really busy they can't get out much. This is a connection back to whatever experience they might have in nature and also a connection to Kensington. I think I've tapped into a real interest in Kensington Metropark."

"Three million people go there annually. In the last year since my book was published, I've met a lot of people who have connections to Kensington. There's a rejuvenation of spirit that they can achieve by spending time there."

Nature wasn't Nancy Hurd's subject of choice until she visited Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor. Best known for her portraits and figure drawings, the Livonia artist exhibits a colored pencil drawing titled "Leaf Dancer" in the Fine Arts in the Village exhibit. The work was done from photographs taken at the botanical gardens.

What The Livonia Arts Commission presents
It's Livonia Arts Festival, an outdoor arts and crafts show, and Fine Arts in the Village Exhibit inside Greenmead's historic buildings
When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 10, until 5 p.m. Sunday, June 11.
Where: Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. For information, call the community resources department at Livonia City Hall (734)466-254

"I thought a frog was an exhibitor in juried competitions. Hurd gained entry to the fine arts exhibit for the first time this year."

Basically a self-taught artist, Hurd has taken classes in illustration and drawing at the University of Michi-



Mallard on ice: Ted Nelson displays photographs from his book, "The Nature of Kensington," at the Livonia Arts Festival.

gan and Center for Creative Studies since beginning work in colored pencil eight years ago. Hurd won third place and an honorable mention in the Farmington Artista Club spring exhibit. She'll be in the Color Pencil Gallery in Birmingham later this summer.

"I'm excited about Fine Arts in the Village. I saw it last year," said Hurd, who teaches painting to senior citizens in Farmington. "Artists spend as much time alone. It's nice to see your art on display."

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MUSIC

Jazz lovers get together to support free festival

Father's Day Brunch
What: The committee of the Michigan Jazz Festival holds a fund-raiser featuring the Larry Nozoro Quartet and guest trumpeter Johnny Trudell.
When: Noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 18.
Where: Waterside Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile Roads, Livonia.
Tickets: \$25. Tickets are available at the admission for Michigan Jazz Festival (Sunday, July 23), and the Schoolcraft College Concert Club. For tickets, call (248) 474-2120 or (734) 856-2454 on the Web: www.michiganjazzfestival.com.
Doors: 10 a.m. on Sunday. Tickets are available at the admission for Michigan Jazz Festival (Sunday, July 23), and the Schoolcraft College Concert Club.

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Seems like Larry Nozoro is always on the road. From playing one-night stands in San Francisco to La Bistecca Italian Grille in Livonia the first Monday of every month, bookings for Nozoro and his jazz quartet keep him jumping. On June 11, they'll play with Emerald Sinfonietta at Carl's Chop House in Detroit, then it's on to the Frog and Festival of Jazz at the Potosky Jazz Festival Aug. 19, and the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival (formerly known as the Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival) in September.

But no matter how busy he is the Novi saxophonist always makes time to play for the Father's Day Brunch to raise funds for the Michigan Jazz Festival Sunday, July 16, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. The sixth annual festival will feature more than 170 performers including headliners such as George Benson, Bess Bonnier, and Dekora, a young vocal jazz group from the Netherlands.

"The brunch is important because the Michigan Jazz Festival involves the local community," said Nozoro, a regular at the festival since its inception. "It gives everyone in the jazz community a chance to be together like Montreux."

Joining Nozoro and his quartet for the Father's Day Brunch concert will be trumpeter Johnny Trudell. Nozoro and Trudell have worked together since both were musicians with Motown.

"Johnny's one of the leading forces in the Detroit scene over the years," said Nozoro. "I really enjoy playing with him."

Nozoro developed a love of jazz long before his days at Motown, though. Growing up in the early 1950s, Nozoro listened to the likes of Kenny Burrell and Yusuf Latif on Detroit street corners. Recordings of jazz musicians such as Art Pepper, Charlie Parker, Stan Getz and Paul Desmond soon inspired Nozoro to evolve his own style. Before long he was performing, touring and recording with legends Ella Fitzger-

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Jazz benefit: Larry Nozoro, and his quartet with guest trumpeter Johnny Trudell, are sure to raise the roof when they play a Father's Day fund-raiser.