

Salute from page E1

Celebrating its eighth year, the patriotic concerts feature the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Ambassadors of the U.S. Army Field Band, Ford Chorus and 1st Michigan Flute and Drum Corps. Each concert concludes with the 1812 Overture and a fantastic display of fireworks.

"It's always had a patriotic American theme," said Fischer of the program. "This year we bumped it up a bit. Almost everything on the program was written by an American composer."

As the symphony plays under a star-lit night, you can say God Bless America, ponder America the Beautiful and salute The Star Spangled Banner.

Also on the program is an Overture to Annie Get Your Gun, "Mambo," from West Side Story, a Motown medley, an armed forces salute and Shenandoah.

Emil de Cou, music director of the San Francisco Ballet, will lead the DSO. He's also led a number of family and pops concerts with the Indianapolis, Minnesota, Kennedy, and other orchestras.

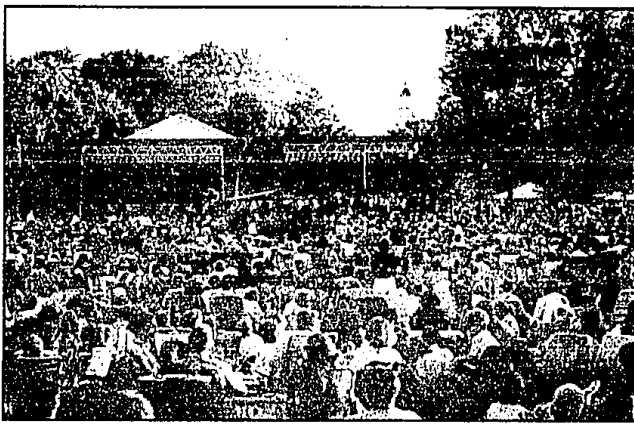
"It's his second visit to Detroit. I'm looking forward to it," said Fischer. De Cou led the DSO in performances of The Nutcracker ballet at the Detroit Opera House in 1999.

Even if you've attended "Salute to America" concerts before, Fischer encourages you to put the date on your calendar.

"In previous years the U.S. Army Field Band has performed. This year the Jazz Ambassadors of the U.S. Army Field Band are playing," said Fischer. "It's a different kind of music. It's a reason to come back."

The band, a select group of musicians who use their talents to bring the army to the American public, plays a mix of music ranging from the 1930s' swing sound to the popular tunes of today.

The 19-piece ensemble carries the sound of pop, patriotic music, big band tunes, modern jazz and original compositions to every part of the world. Band alumni have gone on to play with some of the best big bands in America including Buddy Rich, Stan Kon-



HOLIDAY TRADITION: Families gather on the Village Green to "Salute America" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

ton, Doc Severinsen and Woody Herman.

Some of the people listening to the DSO during "Salute to America" will be hearing the orchestra for the first time.

"It's a wonderful way for people to hear us," said Fischer. "Maybe the next time they have the opportunity they'll come hear us play at Orchestra Hall."

Organizing the event

Jacqui Rohde started working at Greenfield Village 20 years ago scooping ice cream and flipping hamburgers. Now she's catering and sales manager - and project manager for the Salute to America concerts.

"We're very proud of this event," she said. "It takes a lot of coordination."

Rohde and her staff spend many long hours making sure everything goes smoothly, and that the village's daily program is not interrupted.

"You have to have reminders everywhere," she said. "When

you purchase your tickets we give you an information sheet."

As you enter Greenfield Village, you'll hear the 1st Michigan Flute & Drum Corps playing. They'll parade to the village green before the concert.

Plan to arrive early to get a good spot on the village green. Gates open at 6 p.m. for the physically handicapped and 7 p.m. for everyone else. Dress comfortably and wear your walking shoes. It's a quarter mile walk from the gate to the green.

The Ford Chorus will present a program of patriotic favorites and tunes from the 1970s and 1980s from 6-7:15 p.m. The Jazz Ambassadors play from 7:30-8 p.m. followed by the symphony at 8:30 p.m.

Costumed presenters will mingle with the audience including the "mayor" of Greenfield Village and Lah-De-Dah Baseball Team players.

Food

Refreshments, beer, wine and

other beverages, picnic fare and snacks, and specialty cheese, fruit and wine baskets will be offered for sale.

On concert days, Taste of History, a restaurant inside the village near the green, will be open 6-10:15 p.m. The Michigan Cafe, a restaurant inside Henry Ford Museum, will be open 5-7 p.m.

"It's such a family atmosphere," said Rohde. "You can see the excitement in people's faces. When the orchestra plays 1812 Overture, you can hear a pin drop. It's one of the best crowds we entertain."

Salute to America concerts typically sell-out and draw 7,600-7,800 people per night, so if you're planning to go, get your tickets soon.

Concerts are held rain or shine. This year WJBK Fox 2 will televise the concert on Tuesday, July 4.

You can get a sneak preview by visiting Greenfield Village 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 1. That's when the DSO will be practicing.

TasteFest from page E1

Barnes & Noble will host readings and visits from such characters as the Berenstain Bears, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Tuesday, July 1-4. For those who can't sit still, Eugene Clark will teach the basics of puppeteering at the Glove Puppet Workshop 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, July 4. For a complete list of children's activities check out www.tastefest.org.

Listen for local music

For many heading down to TasteFest, the main attraction is the music. Along with high-powered headliners like Isaac Hayes, Sloan, Roomful of Blues and 38 Special, the event boasts a total of 75 acts gracing four stages. TasteFest offers the perfect opportunity to check out some of the best local bands around.

Fans of the local rock outfit, Face, won't want to miss sultry vocalist Courtney and her psychedelic-inspired rock crew 3 p.m. Monday, July 3. With the band's solid, self-titled debut in stores now and talk of their energetic live performances spreading throughout metro Detroit, Face is sure to take TasteFest by storm. For bassist Mike B, a Troy native and Royal Oak resident, this year's TasteFest will be a first. "I'm glad I get to play," he said. "It should be a lot of fun. It's just another step toward our ultimate goal, which is world domination."

It's easy to tell Mike B and Face know how to entertain. The 3-year-old band - which also consists of guitarist and Redford resident Mike Smith, and drummer and Livonia resident Steve Firneno - will showcase new songs from their recently released self-titled debut on Gabriel Records. "It's definitely a progression," said Mike B of the new material.

The self-confessed veteran of the Detroit music scene promised "We're gonna do our best to entertain the crowd."

What would a five-day bash be without a little Gangster Fun? Those six ska-bandits from metro Detroit are at it again, celebrating 14 years of band-hood with a performance 8 p.m. Friday, June 30. Drummer Brian Bowie said the band will be promoting its brand-new album *Graphospasm*, released last

■ 'It is the holiday. Our music is so American.'

Chris Casello
Starlight Drifters

month. The Pontiac resident considers the festival a "great opportunity to play for a bunch of people." "We always try to put on a grand show," said Bowie. "It's always fun to play outside on a big stage in front of a lot of people."

Listen for new tunes like "The Weekend Comes and Hail Wia," a couple of Bowie's favorites to perform live. "We're a high-energy ska-reggae band. That's something they haven't had at the festival. We're representing the ska edge of the spectrum."

As for the Starlight Drifters, performing noon on Monday, July 3, this year marks a return to TasteFest. Guitarist Chris Casello of Ann Arbor said the band is the perfect addition to a festival held just before Independence Day.

"It is the holiday," he said. "Our music is so American." It's right. It doesn't get much more American than the melding of country, swing, rockabilly and straight-up rock 'n' roll. As for TasteFest, Casello said, "It's just a really relaxed, great time."

He and bandmates Billy Mac, Dave Roof and Bill Alton - a Livonia resident - are set to kick off a Northwest U.S. tour and will be recording a follow-up to the band's 1999 effort *Every Note A Pearl* in Las Vegas.

Comerica Michigan TasteFest will offer something for everyone. It is sponsored by New Center Council Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing the northern district of downtown Detroit. Proceeds benefit the New Center Council Inc. in maintaining the area and are also donated to Fairbanks Elementary School offering programs for impoverished youth.

For more on the event, directions or schedules, check out www.tastefest.org or call the hotline at (313) 927-1000.

See related stories on E7 and E8.

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