

Festival from page C1

She's been going to Michigan Opera Theatre productions with her mother Chris Hench and father Peter Dale for several years and is especially looking forward to seeing *Tales of Hoffmann* June 2-10 at the Detroit Opera House.

"I like singing; it makes me very happy," said Dale-Hench who became interested in music at age 2. "I love Julie Andrews and opera singers like Maria Callas. I've seen *La Tosca* and *Evita* twice." Dale-Hench will sing *Don't Cry for Me Argentina*, one of her favorite songs from *Evita* at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. In addition to the festival performance, she will sing in a spring concert with the Franklin High School Choir 7 p.m. Saturday, May 19 at the school. Tickets are \$3, \$2 in advance. Call (734) 523-9300.

"We call her trivia queen for opera at school," said Anne Goodwin, who will accompany Dale-Hench. Goodwin directs the choir at Franklin High School and has worked with Dale-Hench since eighth grade at Emerson.

"I think the festival is a wonderful experience for her. She gets to use her love of music. She gets to achieve a goal and she's sharing her music with others," Connie Lott is expecting up to 175 performers to share their talents and abilities at this year's festival. Scheduling that many musicians, actors and dancers can create problems, but ones Lott doesn't mind solving. One year there weren't enough buses available with wheel chair lifts. This year a group from Clinton Township could arrange for a bus until 9:30 a.m. and was scheduled to perform at 10. Those are the kinds of problems that arise because the festi-

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Connie Lott
VSA Arts Festival
Committee member

val grows every year. In 1997 there were only 125 performers to worry about bussing back and forth to the festival and feeding.

"If you went back 30 years or so individuals with special needs were kept out of public view," said Lott. "Families were reticent about acknowledging someone in their families had special needs. Their abilities were not recognized. There's been a change. Now we see them at church or in the workplace. Barriers are coming down because of interaction and communication. They can see these are whole people and celebrate their talents and realize there are more commonalities than differences. We can come together to share art and music. They're part of the family of man. Let's get to know each other."

The festival provides the perfect opportunity.

Mosaic from page C1

chairperson. Palmer worked as a team with art teachers Karen Feder and Tom Szmezcany to inspire students to take part in the project. "There were many areas in school that needed jazzing up. It's one of three murals and the beginning of many more to come."

"Glass mosaics have been done for thousands of years. When public art reflects the times, it becomes immortal. It gives the school a focal point. Karen and I have a big commitment to art for public places. We want to make this a magnet school for the arts."

Hope Palmer
Art department chairperson

Principal Richard Jones is glad his students and teachers took the initiative to brighten up the school with the mosaic.

"It is just spectacular," said Jones. "The next morning after it was completed there was this respected distance around the mural and just layers and layers of kids looking at it."

Szmezcany couldn't be prouder of not only the students who chipped in to work on the mosaic, but of the art department.

"It's something large in place in the building that extends the department into the building and created by a student in our department," said Szmezcany. "It's a positive thing for the school. And all the students who were involved got to see a piece of art in the making."

"These kids know which tiles they worked on. There's pride of ownership," added clay artist Gail Rosenbloom-Kaplan who worked on the project with her

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daughter Ilyse and Dan Katsir, a West Bloomfield glass artist. Rosenbloom-Kaplan and Katsir guided the project. They designed and produced a mosaic for Hillside Day School in Farmington Hills last year.

Works in progress

Feder hopes eventually to fill all the walls in the art and technology wing with murals. She shouldn't have any problem finding talented students to complete the task. They've already begun painting murals on the walls inside the art room after becoming bored with painting on canvas and paper. Outside the art and technology wing, Elizabeth Schmul and Brianna Loveland feature students involved in extracurricular activities such as sports, music and cheerleading in a work in progress. Oren Myers is creating an 8-by-8-foot ceramic wall piece representing the school mascot, a raider on



Artist at work: Gail Rosenbloom-Kaplan works on one of the panels of a mosaic that will be installed in the lobby at North Farmington High School.

horseback.

"I think the mosaic in the lobby is fabulous," said Kaplan. "The walls are so naked and screaming for student input. What's really nice is that there were not art students sitting at the tables and chipping glass."

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who began playing Dixieland 66 years ago after borrowing his brother's cornet. Jazz lovers will probably remember Saunders beat from the three decades he played around town with *Surfside Six*. "It's a form of jazz that's not as musically contemporary or like bebop that stretches to where the layman can't understand it. It started down south in New Orleans. It was spelled 'jazz' first and then changed to 'jazz' as it worked its way up the Mississippi River to

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Tom Saunders
Musician

St. Louis and Chicago."

Over the years, jazz took different roads as musicians came up with new styles.

"That's what jazz is," said Saunders. "Everybody tries to

come up with something new. Stan Kenton was a perfect example. He would mess with the harmony. A lot of people said that he was too far out but it all worked."

Now Saunders, Trudell, Benson and Nozero are fighting to keep the tradition alive.

"It's not really a battle of the bands," said Saunders. "We're giving people three different styles of jazz. Johnny Trudell is swing, Nozero contemporary jazz. We'll all come back on stage and it will be a train wreck, a jam."

Great turnout

"The last time we did it the turnout was great. I know all these guys and have worked with them a long time. It's all to try to raise money for the Michigan Jazz Festival that's free, but we do have bills to pay."

Battle or no battle, if you miss the concert and would still like to hear jazz, don't miss the Clarenceville High School Jazz Band's spring concert 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15. The program will feature everything from Latin to swing to straight-ahead jazz. Admission is free. For more information, call (248) 473-8926.

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

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