

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Recital series spotlights professional musicians in intimate setting

Except for Schoolcraft College's recital series, it's a rare occasion when an audience is able to hear professional classical musicians perform for free.

Donald Morelock thinks that's a shame. As chairman of the music department, he's been working for about a dozen years to bring live classical music experiences to the community.

At noon Wednesday, Oct. 31, he presents the first recital in a free series at the Forum Recital Hall on campus.

"It's important to have this type of small recital arena," said Morelock.

"The audience can meet with the artists, see them. The musicians work with students in master classes. It's important for students to hear classical music. We're encouraging students and the community to come to concerts. They can experience music close at hand. There's a reception afterwards — a chance to talk to artists. It demystifies the experience."

Sponsored by Student Activities, in conjunction with the music department, the series begins with music by Beethoven, de Sarasate and Ravel performed by Ukrainian violinist Solomia Soroka and pianist Michele Cooker of Ann Arbor.

Soroka, a doctoral student at the Eastman School of Music, made her American recital debut in Colorado in 1997. She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Italy, Russia and Ukraine. She's also won top prizes in the Prokofiev, Lysonko and Zolota Osin international competitions for violinists.

Cooker has performed in classical series and festivals in North America and Mexico. She collaborates with University of Michigan faculty and Detroit Symphony Orchestra members in chamber music concerts.

"I try to bring in artists who are new to this area or to performing," said Morelock, who selects musicians for the series. "I try to introduce people who've never performed in the area or have a new program, also to do master classes with the students."

"We have an active following so many times I'll receive suggestions from students and communities."

The seven-concert series includes baritone Daniel Washington Nov. 14, pianist Arthur Gregg Dec. 5, mezzo soprano Wendy Bloom Jan. 23, coloratura soprano Elizabeth Parcells Feb. 13, classical guitarist Jason Vieaux March 20, and pianist Lori Simms April 10.

All concerts begin at noon in the Forum Recital Hall.

"I'm excited about the series, to have a variety of artists come to Schoolcraft College and give recitals for the students, faculty and community," said Morelock. "Daniel Washing-



Season opener: Conductor Volodymyr Shesniuk and the Livonia Symphony Orchestra rehearse for a concert with bandoneonist Peter Soave.

Crowd Pleaser

Livonia Symphony programs notable season

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Conductor Volodymyr Shesniuk knows if the Livonia Symphony Orchestra wants to keep and grow its audience — new, exciting music is the key.

So when it came time to plan the 2001-2002 season last spring, he and the music committee thought what better way to kick off the concert series than with a pops/semi-classical program Saturday, Nov. 3. The concert opens with Mussorgsky's *Sunrise on Moscow River* then half way through detours to South America for tango music by Argentinean composer Astor Piazzolla before journeying to America for the always popular *As Time Goes By*.

Farmington Hills musician Peter Soave spices up the evening by playing Piazzolla's *Oblivion and Concerto for Bandoneon*, an instrument commonly referred to as the tango accordion.

Soave is a much sought after bandoneonist. Before his appearance with the LSO, he performs with the El Salvador Philharmonic. In September, the Farmington Hills musician played with James Carter's Chasin' the Gypsy Band at the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival in Hart Plaza.

"Every year we try to bring something new," said Shesniuk, a Garden City resident who immigrated to America from Ukraine in 1991. Shesniuk receives the Ukrainian of the Year Award from the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor Sunday, Nov. 4, at the St. Josephat Banquet Center in Warren.

"I'm excited about Peter Soave playing Piazzolla. This music looks simple but it's very deep inside. The concerto has the atmosphere of tango. I like this music. We've also added several short pieces, like *La Comparsa* by Lecuona, to keep attention. *Sunrise on the Moscow River* was written before, Peter the Great came to power when there was new hope of Russia changing, that some new czar will come after Ivan the Terrible. It was a sunrise on a hopeful country."

One old favorite does return for the holidays. *The Nutcracker Ballet*, a joint production with the Dearborn Ballet Theatre, brings to life Clara's dream of a Sugar Plum Fairy Saturday, Dec. 8. Other season highlights include former LSO concertmaster Kiang Gao performing Sibelius on a program featuring Rachmaninoff and Sousa on Jan. 19, and 15-year-old pianist Sanjay Mody playing Chopin April 27.

"Rachmaninoff wrote *Symphonic Dances* almost at the end of his career. Sousa was known for his marches not so much for spiritual music like his *Songs from Grace & Songs from Glory*," said Shesniuk whose daughter Anna Sorokhtel performs Brahms Concerto No. 4 in D minor for piano & orchestra March 23. A chamber concert Sunday, Feb. 17, in Kresge Hall at Madonna University rounds out the season.



As time goes by: The Livonia Symphony Orchestra rehearses the classic song from the film "Casablanca."

LSO board member Jack Van Asche especially is looking forward to presenting a multi-media production of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* March 23. Van Asche is orchestrating a slide show based on the Victor Hartmann artworks shown about in *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

"We're having art students in Livonia Public Schools draw up their impressions of the art according to the music," said Van Asche who also serves on the music committee. "It's going to be a lot of work but I think it's going to be a great season."

"We picked a lot of pieces that deal with time and clocks for the season opener. The aim is to try and play something different, something you won't hear very often and pleasing to the ear. In the six years I've been on the board we haven't repeated a major work. There's a lot of music out there to play."

LIVE FILM EVENT

Philip Glass raises spirits with his music



Celluloid celebration: Philip Glass performs his music to screenings of "Dracula" and more.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Hearing the music Philip Glass composed for the 1931 film *Dracula* makes the listener want to watch the Bela Lugosi classic all over again. That is just what Glass was counting on when he came up with the idea to celebrate his 25 years of writing music for film by releasing a boxed set to complement an international tour.

On Halloween Glass and his ensemble begin four nights of concerts and screenings of Tod Browning's version of Bram Stoker's chilling tale of *Dracula* at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor as part of the University Musical Society series.

What: Philip Glass on Film, a festival of live music and films
When: 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 31 to Nov. 3
Where: Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
Tickets: \$20-\$34, (734) 764-2538

A selection of short films, commissioned by Glass, follows on Thursday, Nov. 1. Godfrey Reggio's 1974 cult classic *Koyaanisqatsi* winds up the *Philip* on Film festival Friday and Saturday.

"Film is mechanically produced," said Glass. "A live element doesn't exist. We bring live performance and film together in a different medium. Eighty years ago it was common to have live music with silent movies. It makes a tremendous impact on the audience."

Even though Glass enjoys exploring music as it relates to film, his first love is symphonic music and opera. Glass is currently working on an opera based on Galileo along with his sixth symphony.

Please see CLASS, C2

Beethoven to Ravel: Violinist Solomia Soroka performs in the first concert of a recital series at Schoolcraft College.

