

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Make time for music

It's easy at this time of year to forget to have a little fun with all the gift buying and wrapping, cookie baking and running around that needs to be done. The holidays are a festive time so slow down and take time to enjoy the season. And what better way to do that than with music performed by The Brass of Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings. The 11-member ensemble kicks off the Concerts at the Costick Series with a Holiday Brass program of light classical and seasonal music 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

Nancy Coumoundouros, professor and audience members will leave in the mood to celebrate the holidays. "This is their second year in the series," said Coumoundouros, cultural arts coordinator for the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. "They're back by popular demand. People just raved about the concert last year."

Three different arrangements of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* should soften the most Scrooge-like among us while brightening all of our spirits.

Mix going to be a mix of light holiday music and music that's light popular," said Maury Okun, executive director of the Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings based in Southfield. Okun is principal trombone with the Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra as well as a member of The Brass of Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings.

Composed of musicians from the Detroit Symphony and Michigan Opera Theatre orchestras, Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings presents a subscription series of nine concerts, three of them brass, every season. Okun and DSO trumpet Kevin Good and violinist Victoria King founded the ensemble 20 years ago. One of their most recent performances was at the Detroit 300 celebration last summer on the riverfront.

"We'll begin with a Suite by Mouret that is best known as the opening theme for *Masterpiece Theater*," said Okun. "And there will be music by Gershwin."

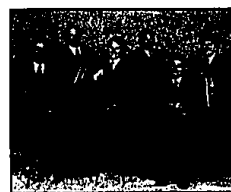
"We were founded to provide great brass concerts. They're the most accessible. They're fun."

Coumoundouros couldn't agree more. In fact, that's why the Costick series was introduced in the first place - to provide a night out for arts lovers in the community with one idea in mind - fun.

"We're trying to bring in a variety and appeal to all tastes," said Coumoundouros. "This year we wanted to get theater and comedy into the series."

Comedy comes to the series Saturday, Feb. 2, when a national touring group takes the audience back to Catholic school with the interactive production *Late Nite Catechism*. The 8 p.m. performance follows a 6:30 p.m. dinner, catered by Gourmet Express. Tickets are \$30.

Please see **LANDSCAPES, C2**



Holiday brass: The Brass of Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings open the Costick Center series in Farmington Hills.



Bride and Groom Presence

Historical museum traces growth of Polish in Detroit

BY GREG KOWALSKI

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A frail bingo number cage stands by one wall. On a shelf is a beaten hand-held sausage maker. And on another wall hang somewhat tattered political posters of names largely forgotten today.

These are just a few of the reminders of the long and rich past the Polish-American community has had in making up the fabric of the city of Detroit. They are not the most impressive examples of Detroit's Polonia, but they are among the most telling.

"This is really about individuals and families," said Jill Grannan, a curator at the Detroit Historical Museum. She speaks in a room surrounded by memorabilia of Polonia, on the second floor of the museum on Woodward.

This is the site of a major new exhibit that opened Saturday and runs through next March. The Polish Presence in Detroit explores the history,



Good eats: Hearty food has always been part of Polish culture, as these photos show.

Enjoying the oldies: Karen Majewski (left) and Jill Grannan, who spent months organizing *The Polish Presence* in Detroit exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum, look over some popular Polish performers and their works from the past.

What: The Polish Presence in Detroit

Where: The Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward, Detroit

When: Through March, 2002

Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For information, call (313) 633-1201.

nature and accomplishments of one of the largest ethnic groups that has played a key role in the story of Detroit.

Organized by St. Mary's College of Ave Maria University at Orchard Lake in cooperation with the Detroit Historical Museum, the exhibit features hundreds of photographs and artifacts gathered from individuals and organizations.

But at its core are the generation of Polish people who helped build the city of Detroit.

"It really has been touching and nice for me to pay tribute to somebody else's sister and father and show something that's never been seen before to people of this area," Grannan said. She has some Polish ancestors.

Karen Majewski has more direct links to Polonia. As executive secretary of the Polish American Historical Association and Polish Materials Specialist at St. Mary's College - and a resident of Hamtramck, long one of the centers of Detroit's Polish community - Majewski has been working tirelessly for months to pull the exhibit together.

Last year, Majewski heard about grants being offered by Detroit 300 to sponsor events tied to the city's celebration of its 300th birthday. She contacted individuals, churches, Polish-American organi-



Bingo! The popular game has been a staple event at church festivals in the Polish community for decades.

zations and the Hamtramck Historical Commission to pull together a committee to create a theme for the show.

"It struck me how much of Detroit's Polonia was tied into the city of Detroit," Majewski said. Not mere residents, they became entrenched in all aspects of the community. "All political stripes, all religions and no religions. Every possible political body had an organization," Majewski said.

"Everyone seemed to have a voice," Grannan added. "We're really looking back to such a vibrant time."

Please see **POLISH, C2**

BOOKS



True story: Jackson, a great horned owl, adopts Robbyn and Gijbert van Frankenhuyzen in their new book published by Sleeping Bear Press.

Owl builds nest in hearts of family

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

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Jackson wasn't just any owl. He made himself at home on Gijbert and Robbyn van Frankenhuyzen's farm in Bath, Mich., and eventually became part of the family. A children's book illustrator, Gijbert took every opportunity to capture the beauty of the great horned owl in sketches while Robbyn kept a journal of their days together.

Each learned to love the big bird in many ways, especially for his protective instinct of flying their children, Heather and Kelly, to the bus stop. Of course, they weren't too fond of him bringing mice onto the balcony railing as a gift. But Gijbert would simply offer it back to the owl in the morning as breakfast.

It's obvious by reading about their adventures that 13 years of love went into the making of the van Frankenhuyzen's *Adopted by an Owl* published by Sleeping Bear Press. They'll sign copies of the new book Saturday, Dec. 15, at Little Book Shoppe on the Park in Plymouth.

"This was a very special book to us," said Gijbert van Frankenhuyzen. "It's a book we're really proud of. It's a special story. Jackson lived with us from 1985 to 1998. It's been in the works for quite a while."

Robbyn originally wrote a chapter book for the publisher about the wildlife they rehabilitated on their farm over a period of 20 years. Foxes, fawns, opossums, skunk, raccoons, rabbits, hawks, and owls counted on

the family to help them heal and return to the wild.

Gijbert learned a great deal about wildlife while working as an art director for Michigan Natural Resources magazine for 17 years. So it made sense for Gijbert to paint nothing but wildlife in his own work. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Arts in the Netherlands where he grew up, Gijbert is well-known for illustrating children's books - *The Legend of Sleeping Bear*, *The Legend of the Loon*, and *The Legend of the Teddy Bear*. *The Legend of Mackinac Island*, *The Legend of the Lac Seul Slipper*, *The Blue Spruce*, *A Place Called Home*, and *L is for Lincoln: An Illinois Alphabet Book*.

But Sleeping Bear Press wanted a 48-page picture book about the owl and they wanted Gijbert to be in it. And so he is. Gijbert, whose nickname is Nick, wanders throughout the story and farm where he lives with a menagerie of horses, rabbits, sheep, dogs, and cats. That's him with his dog in the fields, a scene just outside his studio window. All 25 acrylic on canvas.

Please see **OWL, C2**

What: Robbyn and Gijbert van Frankenhuyzen sign copies of their new book *Adopted by an Owl*

When: 6-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15

Where: Little Book Shoppe on the Park, 380 S. Main, Plymouth. Call (734) 455-5220