

Pianist returns to Vivace Concert Series

Award-winning pianist Scott Holden returns to the Vivace Concert Series Saturday, Nov. 23, at Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills. The program includes sonatas by Brahms and Hindemith, and *Carnaval* by Schumann. A highlight of the concert will be the Michigan premiere of *Three Caprices* by Vernon Duke who composed the American standards *April in Paris* and *Autumn in New York*. Holden will discuss the music with the audience. An afterglow with Holden follows the concert.

A graduate of Lahser High School, Holden grew up in Bloomfield Hills. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan School of Music and then went on to obtain advanced degrees from the Juilliard and Manhattan schools of music. He has performed throughout Europe and the U.S. including engagements at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

Holden's won many awards such as the Vladimir Horowitz from Juilliard and the 1996 Leschetizky International Piano Competition. Currently, he is on the faculty at Brigham Young University in Utah, and a member of the American Piano Quartet.

VIVACE CONCERT SERIES

What: Presents pianist Scott Holden in a program featuring Brahms, Hindemith, Schumann, and Vernon Duke

Where: 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23

Where: Birmingham Temple, 2861 West 12 Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Tickets: \$18, \$15 seniors and temple members, \$12 students.

For information and to order tickets, call (248) 788-9338 or (248) 661-1348



Sherri Rushman (left), Matt Ripper, Gregory Orr, and Megan Wright rehearse Laura Gumina's play *Cry Dignity*. Gumina is seeking donations to produce the drama about mental illness early next year.

Donations sought to produce play about mental illness

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Laura Gumina isn't shy about asking people to donate money so she can bring the play *Cry Dignity* to the stage of Trinity House Theatre Feb. 14-15 and 20-21, in Livonia. Gumina and Southfield resident Sue Kennedy have been working since last March on the project, Gumina writing the drama about mental illness, Kennedy applying for a Community Block Grant.

Kennedy is a clinical manager at Mercy Network West in Walled Lake, a case management provider for the mentally ill through Community Mental Health. Gumina has more than 30 years experience in theater as a director, actress and educator. Some of her credits include teaching creative dramas and play production in Southfield Public Schools and directing Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* at Trinity House Theatre.

She recently received the Oakland County Council for Children and Adults with Psychiatric Disabilities Tip Of The Cap Award in recognition of an Oakland County resident with a major mental illness living interdependently, engaged in volunteer work and/or employed. Gumina has given hundreds of hours to the *Cry Dignity* project.

"We have something to say and everything costs money," said Gumina, a former Farmington Hills resident now living in Ferndale. "Barry, the young man in the play attempts suicide which is the third major cause of death for people under age 20. There's not another vehicle out there that addresses the problem at a high school level. It's an expose of how this illness is treated in our society. More and more I hear about young people becoming emotionally ill. We need funding for tech and design people. We're looking for funding from individuals, organizations, corporations, business-

es, agencies, and advocates.

"Statistics are staggering for people who experience mental health problems. There are many whose understanding of mental health problems is based on misconceptions and myths. It's a treatable illness. The play tries to break down the stigma. One reason people remain untreated is the stigma of going to a psychiatrist. It's an archaic attitude."

One that Gumina means to change by telling her own story. When Kennedy first approached

her about using theater to address the stigma of mental illness, Gumina knew she'd have to go public about her lifelong struggle. It's taken a great deal of courage and strength to reveal her own experiences through one of the characters in the play. In fact, all of the characters in the play come from real life, either from people she's met or learned about while doing research for the play.

Barry wants his father to understand his illness but he sees it as a weakness in his son,

one he could overcome if he only put his mind to it. These are sensitive issues Gumina has incorporated in the script. She's trying to do everything she can to help people overcome the negative feelings about themselves due to society's misconceptions by bringing the issue to the stage.

To donate or for more information, call Sue Kennedy at (248) 688-3410.

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at 3:00pm and 8:00pm

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