

Enjoy dinner and wine to benefit the arts

BY JOE BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

Dario Bergamo knows firsthand how a sour economy can wreak havoc on government funding for arts education programs.

When public dollars dwindle, the private sector — and in Detroit, the automobile industry in particular — is often called upon to make up the shortfall.

"Arts education is very critical to this area, and private-sector contribution is even more important than in the past," said Bergamo, vice president for sales and marketing of Troy-based automotive supplier Solar Corporation.

Bergamo is serving as a committee chair for Treasures from the Cellar IV, the major fund-raiser for the Southfield-based Fanchub Arts Foundation.

In its fourth year, Bergamo said the wine auction and gourmet dinner at Neilman Marcus in Troy's Somerset Collection has grown each year, with this year's fund-raising goal set at \$75,000.

The wines of Napa Valley-based Rombauer Estates will be featured at this year's dinner, with K.R. Rombauer III serving as honorary wine chair for the Saturday, May 31, event.

The evening begins with a champagne reception and silent auction at 7 p.m., followed by a four-course dinner, live auction and afterglow at Capital Grille.

The Fanchub Arts Foundation is metro-Detroit's only not-for-profit fund-raising organization dedicated to supporting arts education for students from kindergarten through post-graduate level.

To date, more than \$400,000 in grants have been awarded, with 16 organizations from the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center to Southfield-based Youth Theatre shining more than \$49,000 in grants last year.

"Fanchub wouldn't exist without the fabulous corporate support we receive and an army of dedicated volunteers and arts enthusiasts," said Fanchub executive director John Bloom. "We have Dow Automotive as our event sponsor this year, and we

get tremendous support from Neilman Marcus and all of the people associated with this event."

Bergamo said he became involved with Fanchub after meeting Bloom and hearing about the organization. "John (Bloom) has a real passion for helping kids and building bridges in the community, so this seemed like a natural," he said. "The dinner is a great event and a great way to be involved and help improve our community."

"Ticket information for Treasures from the Cellar IV is available by calling Fanchub at (248) 584-6150, or by visiting the Foundation's Web site at www.fanchubarts.com

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A wide variety of fine and rare wines will be up for auction at Treasures from the Cellar IV, an annual fund-raiser for the Fanchub Arts Foundation May 31 at Neilman Marcus in Troy.

MUSEUMS

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um's Fabulous Fourth Friday Nights program.

A Rochester Hills resident, the 19-year-old Edgar is a recording artist with several respected labels. His show not only includes sound, but also a live improv video set.

Edgar performs live using multiple laptop computers to create sounds described as an infusion of tingly Detroit chords, glitchy post-R&B rhythms and moody chaotic electronic pulses.

Doesn't quite compute? Stop by for a listen and decide yourself. After all, electronic music is what you make it.

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TECHNO EXHIBIT

What: A live techno concert and special tours Intensity Techno: Detroit's Gift to the World, an exhibit that explores the development of electronic music in Detroit through photographs, artifacts, video and music.

When: Museum hours extended until 9 p.m. Friday, May 23. Special events all scheduled Friday evening. Exhibit runs through June 2004. Regular museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

Where: Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Admission: Adults, \$5, students and seniors, \$2.50, children age 4 and under, free, call (313) 833-1805 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

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