

F'ton Arts Council Expands Goals

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first article in a series of three describing the operations of Observerland's three Community Arts Councils. They are Farmington, Plymouth and Southfield.

By BETTY MASSON

When it was formed in October 1969, the Farmington Community Arts Council's original purpose was the somewhat nebulous one of "encouraging cultural and educational organizations in the Farmington area."

These indications, over the 1972-73 season, that some of the mists are beginning to clear.

This was the year in which the council went into the schools, primarily the junior high schools, with programs conducted by volunteers who are also professional artists.

The FCAC has always had a close association with the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College, and this year three of its art professors entertained and informed school children under the FCAC aegis.

Ted Striewski, an award-winning sculptor, gave film demonstrations on sculpture, which "had the kids absolutely mesmerized," according to Mrs. Roger (Marlowe) Belanger, FCAC president.

Bob Piepenberg took his potter's wheel to the students and showed them how a potter creates.

Kegham Tazian gave demonstrations of his collages, which are winning him fame.

Others were involved in the in-school programs:

Mrs. Evelyn Krasson, director of the Michigan Ballet Theater (formerly the Suburban Ballet), with her students staged demonstrations on the history and requirements of dance.

Paul Barber, director of music at Harrison High School, brought in his 18-piece jazz band, and presented a musical history of jazz.

Dr. Micheline, of Mercy High School, gave classes in line drawing, in which students produced their own

works of art with newspaper print and charcoal.

Dr. J. Harold Ellens, of University Hills Church, gave talks on the relationship between art and religion.

In addition, the council sponsored a visit by Max Elison, Michigan poet, who spent four days in the junior high schools and proved a popular attraction.

So enthusiastic has been school response, these programs will undoubtedly continue.

Daniel Greenberg of OCC's speech and drama department is a member of the board of directors this year.

The council is taking a strong interest in the formation of a new symphony in the northwest suburban area.

Mrs. Belanger, who is on the steering committee, said, "The Farmington Arts Council has committed itself to support the symphony in any possible way, short of financial."

The FCAC has also promised to help the Michigan Ballet Theater host the Mid-West Regional Ballet Association conference, which will be held in June 1974 in Farmington's Mercy High School.

Thousands of ballet students and their families are expected to attend, reports Mrs. Belanger.

This summer, the council members are involved with Robert Lieber, school social worker, in "Operation Insight '73." Lieber is taking six German youths and six American boys on an eight-week tour of the U.S. The group will be in Farmington the weekend of July 14 and the week of Aug. 18-25.

The council was also able during the spring to give \$300 in scholarships to deserving very young people. The monies enabled several children to attend an "Artists' program" in University Hills Church. The money came from a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Plans for the future, possibly the fall of 1974, include an arts festival, which would involve Farmington school children.

Contests would be held to encourage participation.

The council's chief continuing project, and one which Mrs. Belanger believes is unique, has been publication of a calendar of events in the Farmington area.

About 5,000 of these calendars are sent out free of charge to individuals and organizations. They are updated every three months with a supplement which can easily be pasted on the calendar.

Financing for this is through advertising and "a friendly printer."

Funds for the council have been raised since its inception through the sale of memberships. Cost is \$10 for

individuals and \$25 for organizations.

On the minus side this year, "Exposure to the Arts," a series of lectures and demonstrations for adults, failed to draw enough registrants and had to be shelved. The series had run successfully for three years previously, the first year as a four-part series of performing arts programs.

A watercolor workshop by L. T. Shackelford of California did attract about 24 artists.

This year, Mrs. Belanger is making a special effort to attend FCAC meetings. These are held at 8 p.m., the second Tuesday of each month (beginning again in September) in the library of the Alexander Hamilton Insurance Co. in Farmington.

Board members for the new year include, besides Mrs. Belanger, Shirley Hat-

field, treasurer; Mrs. James Ellis, recording secretary; Richard Frankel, corresponding secretary; John Allen, chairman of the calendar; Haroune Alameddine, activities chairman; Robert Lieber, vice-president for memberships; and Dr. Greenberg.

Signed on for possible committee work are Mrs. Robert Neuhouser, Mrs. Marilyn Wheaton, Ted Mann, Mrs. Virginia Dickerman and Roland Sharette.

Anyone wishing to contact the FCAC may do so through the board members or through the Farmington Community Center.

amusements



MEMBERS OF the Farmington Community Arts Council are looking forward to a busy and productive 1973-74 season. From left are Priscilla Molner, Dr. Daniel Greenberg (holding the PCAC calendar), Bob Lieber, Marlowe Belanger, Shirley Hatfield and Haroune Alameddine. (Evert photo)

Vienna Is Theme SC Concert 'Bright'

By TIM RICHARD

Some years ago an orchestra produced a record called "Classical Music for People Who Don't Like Classical Music," a stripped-down version of melodies from great works.

At Schoolcraft College this month they're giving a summer music festival that could well be dubbed "Chamber Music for People Who Don't Like Chamber Music." The chief difference is that ensembles here don't offer stripped-down versions; they're performing the real thing, but exquisitely programmed.

Indeed, this, the seventh year's programming is probably the best yet. Assistant Director Allen Shaffer's illuminating program notes reveal that the connecting theme last year was one composer or pair of classical/modern composers; rather, it's Vienna, which has attracted and held more master composers than perhaps any other city.

The performers may deviate from the program as printed. In his program coordinating work, it seems, Shaffer found that every work on one evening's agenda was in the same key. Without knowing why, an audience would have been bored by such a setup.

If "chamber" scares you — and it apparently scares men, who were outnumbered 3-1 at last Tuesday's opener — don't let it. The faculty has picked out, and Shaffer has programmed, some of the liveliest, brightest entertainment you can find on a summer's eve.

Take next Tuesday's offering, Shaffer and Donald Morlock have scheduled something by Schubert (one of the few composers actually born in Vienna) that I've never heard — Fantasia in F Minor for two pianos — but Shaffer gave me this rundown:

"It's one of Schubert's very late works, 1828. It's important because it was experimental. He compressed into a single movement the elements of four movements."

Ah, yes, that was quite a trend among the Romantics, Haydn wrote in the tradition of four movements; his pupil, Beethoven, introduced the unifying rhythm, (fifth

symphony); Schumann, the cyclical melody (fourth symphony); the incomparable Liszt (both piano concertos).

"It's lyrical and melancholy," Shaffer went on about the Schubert Fantasia. "He was a prolific composer, even though he died at 31. We tend to dismiss the piano duet, but a lot of very good work was done in that form. It's an easy medium to write in. He could sit down with a friend and try it out right away."

Shaffer is a perfect example of the kind of total musician that Wayne Dunlap, former Schoolcraft music director, brought into the program when he began it in 1967. Shaffer is a performer, teacher and writer with a fine sense of audience. Later in next Tuesday's program he will perform, with composer in residence Robert W. Jones, a concerto for celesta and harpsichord by Pinkham, whoever Pinkham is.

Shaffer, who has taught and performed in all the Schoolcraft summer festivals and music schools since the beginning, now spends the regular school year at Norfolk (Va.) State College but continues to return for the summer because "it's a nice change of pace for me."

Also on that program will be a five-instrument version of Richard Strauss' "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks" and a Rossini sonata for four stringed instruments.

That's what I call absorbing programming. That is no idle compliment. Last year, to be honest, I think Director Richard Saunders may have given the performers too free a hand so that they selected stuff they liked but which was a mile beyond my ordinary stobs. This year I sense a compromise.

The Tuesday evening programs begin at 8:30 p.m. (not 8, as a publicity announcement said) in the Weyman Campus Center, at the north end of the Haggerty Road campus. Admission is \$1, but I think they should charge more so that people will value it more highly.

Last Tuesday's program was one of the best I've ever heard. Whether the taxpayers out here know or care, four excellent musicians from the Detroit Sym-

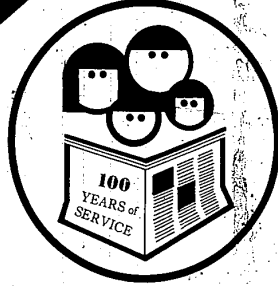
phony who teach at Schoolcraft during the summer have taken the college's name for their quartet.

Violist Dave Ireland says he and violinists James Warren and Inez Redman, and cellist Mario Difore, get together every week and have been performing recitals all around the Detroit metropolitan area.

In my own fascination with Beethoven's violin and piano concertos, I never learned he wrote for a woodwind quintet. But there is such a thing; David Mariotti, oboe; Oliver Green, clarinet; Cleo Barone, flute; Paul Ganson, bassoon; and Eugene Wade, French horn. It adds up to chamber music for people who THINK they don't like chamber music.

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Concerts, Films Slated At OCC

The Oakland Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills will kick off its summer events program with a rock concert tonight (Saturday) and Sunday in the outdoor amphitheater.

The rock concert will feature several groups on Saturday including Father, Whiz Kids and Chip Stevens running from 6 to 11 p.m.

Sunday's concert features Stretch Thomas and Gaslight running from 6 until 10 p.m.

The campus is located at 2765 Orchard Lake Road near I-696 in Farmington Hills.

The summer program will continue July 15 at 7:30 p.m. when the Brookside jazz Ensemble will perform in the amphitheater with singer Ursula Walkers.

A film week with old-time comedians Charlie Chaplin, W.S. Fields and the Marx Brothers will begin on Wednesday, July 25, in Room 294 of J-Building at 8 p.m.

The old-time comedians will be featured July 25, 26 and 30. Recent comedians will be shown on alternate dates beginning with "Goodbye Columbus" with Ali McGraw and Richard Benjamin on July 23.

"The Dirty Dozen" with Lee Marvin, Jim Brown and Telly Savalas will be shown July 27.

Admission for the rock and jazz concerts is \$2 to the general public and \$1 to OCC students with identification. The films are \$1 to the public and 50 cents to OCC students.

C'ville Concert Slated Monday

The Clarenceville High School band will give a sneak preview on Monday, July 9, of the program it will perform for the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City.

The preview was scheduled in appreciation for community residents who helped the band raise \$7,000 to compete for the governor's trophy in Traverse City. It will begin at 7 p.m. at the high school athletic field, Middle Belt south of Eight Mile.

The band will compete on July 12 at 7:30 p.m. for the trophy in Traverse City.

The Detroit Tigers are the band's theme for the competition program.

"Lovely Day Today" in the second skit. Students dressed as opposition baseball players will be sprayed with spray cans marked "Tiger power."

A giant glass and two large Alka Seltzer pills are props for the third skit. White balloons are used for fizz and the seltzer is used to soothe Billy Martin's stomach as the band plays "No Matter What Shape Your Tummy's In."

"Take Me Out To The Ball Game" will be played while a 12-foot long hot dog is gobbled by a giant baseball fan.

The closing formation features Elsa's "Procession to the Cathedral."

The 18-member band will stay at Shuss Mountain Ski Resort with 20 chaperones for the competition from July 11-13.

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