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Familiar faces returning for Bach Festival

There will be a lot of familiar faces performing at this year's Village Bach Festival which is indicative of what the musicians thought of the first annual event last year.

The only complaint they had last year, music director and conductor Don Jaeger joked after it was over, was, "They fed us too well. Everyone has to go on a diet."

No doubt the food served by townspeople is one reason the musicians are returning. Among those coming back is Jaeger as conductor and music director. The latter title means he is responsible for lining up the musicians who will perform and selecting the program.

He has been conductor of the Midland Symphony for 12 years and also conducts the Northwestern Michigan Symphony and Northwood Symphonette, which in March of next year will perform its first annual "Festival of the Desert" in Palm Springs, Calif., followed by its debut at Lincoln Center in New York City. He has been guest conductor of numerous symphonies in this country and Europe.

Starting one hour before the start of each concert, Byron Hanson will present a lecture about Bach and the Baroque period in which he lived. Hanson is resident conductor of the Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra. Joining him for the Friday evening lecture will be Dana Hull, who restored the more than 100-year-old Henry Erban built tracker organ at the church.

The "Spirit of the Baroque" slide-tape presentation and exhibit at Rawson Memorial Library continues through Dec. 5. Hours are 1-3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 7-9 p.m. Mondays and Fridays, and this Sunday only, noon-2:30 p.m.

be his wife, Catherine, on oboe, and daughter Laura, flute.

SATURDAY

Leading off the program will be a three-violin concerto performed by Bill Preucil, concertmaster of the Nashville (Tenn.) Symphony and Northwood Symphonette; his father, William Preucil, a member of the Stradivari Quartet in residence at the University of Iowa, and Gwen Starker, member of the first violin section of the Nashville Symphony.

In the festival orchestra are two other children of William and Doris Preucil, Ann and Wally, both on violin. Mrs. Preucil was to have played, but is recuperating from an operation.

Next will be two arias, the first with tenor Glenn Siebert, a district winner and regional finalist of the Metropolitan Opera contest, and Catherine Paulu on oboe. Soprano Karen Smith, a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music, will sing the second, accompanied by Bill Preucil on violin.

A sonata will be performed by William Preucil on violin and Ms. Ornstein on harpsichord.

Ms. Smith will then sing a cantata, accompanied by Dr. Dennis Horton, professor of trumpet at Central Michigan University.

Final selection of the evening will be the Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major, performed by Laura Paulu, Norman Paulu and Ms. Ornstein.

The public will have a chance to meet the musicians at a reception in the church following the performance.

SUNDAY

Members of the Order of the Eastern Star will be serving brunch Sunday morning to the musicians and their host families, starting at 11:30. The public can attend by prior reservation.

Ms. Ornstein will perform the opening number of the concert, starting at 3 p.m. Cantata No. 55 will be performed by Siebert, Laura Paulu, Catherine Paulu, and the Canzona di Musica, a Midland-based choral ensemble conducted by Charles Noneman.

Cantata No. 140 will be performed by the Canzona di Musica; Siebert; Ms. Smith; baritone Jay Thompson, a staff member at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Bill Preucil, and Catherine Paulu.

The final selection, Suite No. 4 in D Major, will be performed by the Village Bach Festival Orchestra. Members of the orchestra come from the three groups normally conducted by Jaeger, Nashville Symphony, Interlochen Arts Academy faculty and other ensembles.

FRIDAY

The program begins at 8 p.m. with Parry Karp, performing a solo number on the cello.

Tom Brown, organist at the church of St. John the Evangelist in New York City, will then play various numbers on the organ. Brown performed at the first Bach festival.

This Tuesday evening, he was to have played piano selections by Chopin, Beethoven and Ravel at a concert for patron ticket-holders at the Cass City Missionary church.

The final performance Friday evening will be given by the Pro Arte Quartet, which traces its origins back to 1912 in Belgium.

The members are Norman Paulu and Martha Francis, on violin; Richard Blum, viola, and Karp on cello. All four are members of the faculty at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Paulu played at the first Bach festival and like last year, also playing here will

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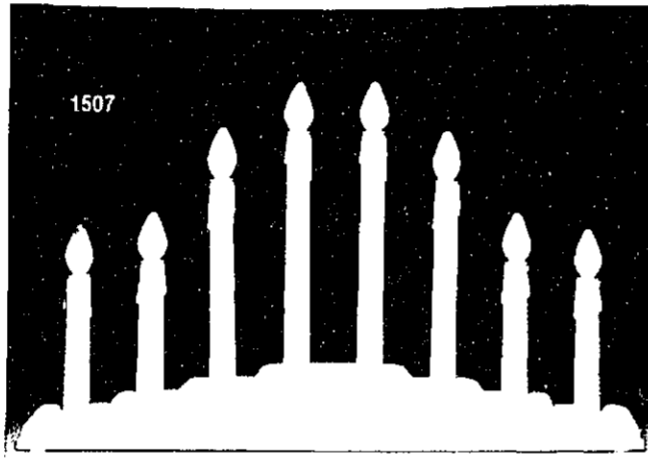
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