



Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Students to perform with symphony

Oakland University is hosting a special performance of the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony featuring the winners of the 2001 Concerto Competition held at Oakland University in early November. The performance is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall.

The winners of the Concerto Competition represent some of the finest young musicians in the area.

This year's winners are Robert Phelps, an undergraduate in music performance from Warren; Alex Ruthman, who completed his undergraduate work at the University of Michigan and is currently enrolled in the Master of Music Education program at Oakland University; Jacquelyn Wagner, a junior studying vocal performance from Bloomfield Hills; and Crystal Wish Webster, who is an undergraduate singer from West Bloomfield.

Phelps is an accomplished musician who has participated in the International Music Festival in Europe in 1999, 2000 and 2001. He will perform the first movement of Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto in G Minor.

Ruthman, who is from Kansas City, Missouri, will perform the United States' premiere of Images from Goldsmith by Karl Boelter on French horn.

Wagner will sing "Ain't It A Pretty Night" from Susannah. This accomplished soprano studied in Spoleto, Italy, this past summer and just recently was named the winner of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Mozart competition.

Webster has studied ballet, dance and voice at Interlochen for many years and has many honors bestowed for her musical talent. She will perform "Glitter and Be Gay" from Candide.

The remainder of the program will include "Pacific 231," of the Swiss composer Arthur Honegger, and the quintessentially American orchestral masterwork, "Appalachian Spring" by Aaron Copland.

The Pontiac-Oakland Symphony is conducted by Gregory Cunningham, assistant professor of instrumental music at Oakland University.

Tickets are \$15 for the general public, \$10 for senior citizens and students.

Tickets may be reserved by calling the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony Box Office at (248) 334-6024. Tickets also will be available at the Varner Hall Box Office one hour before the performance.

SUMMARY

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