

Civic Leaders Praise Plan for Youth Symphony-Ballet Benefit

Final rehearsals are being held this week for the youth symphony-ballet concert, which will be presented Saturday at 8:15 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at San Mateo High school auditorium.

The concert was praised today by James R. Torney, county superintendent of schools, who was certain that the purpose for which the ballet was being presented with proceeds to aid retarded children, would gain full county support.

"Those children," Torney said, "who by accident at birth or other

circumstances have been unfortunately handicapped, desperately need the funds that the symphony-ballet concert will afford them.

"The parents' association for retarded children of San Mateo county has done much to help their children and the children of others. Having worked with them in the schools, I have discovered what amazing strides have been made through specialized training in aiding these children in adjusting to society.

"The legal limitations placed upon school districts for expenditures to train mentally handicapped youngsters has placed a severe burden on the parents' association for retarded children who through necessity must seek outside financing to carry out a vital educational program.

"Through such worthy endeavors as the youth symphony-ballet concert, funds can be raised to continue the year-round training schedule for retarded children," the school superintendent said.

Clifton H. Woodhams Jr., president of the California Youth Symphony association, said that more than 80 talented youthful performers, all from the Peninsula area, will be featured in the two-hour stage presentation.

The symphony group will share the spotlight with three ballets directed by Mme. Olga Ziceva of San Mateo.

"Chopiniana," with choreography by Mme. Ziceva after M. Fokine, has as its principals Clyde Queen and Richard Opaterny. Opaterny studied ballet for 10 years with Dimitri Romanoff and Natasha Boskovic and has danced professionally throughout the United States and Canada. He has performed in the ballet companies of the Detroit civic opera and the Pittsburgh civic opera. He will present a pas de deux of his own creation from Les Sylphides with Clyde Queen as his partner.

The "Jewel Ballet," choreography by Mme. Ziceva, with Clyde Queen, Sally Wolfe and Sandra Roveta as featured ballerinas, will be the second offering. This ballet was inspired by excerpts from Piano Concerto No. 2 and No. 4 by Camille Saint-Saens.

Aaron Steen, the dynamic 35-year-old Youth Symphony conductor, will direct "The Overture to a Secret Marriage" by Cimarosa; Handel's "Prelude and Fugue in D Minor"; the "Suite of English Folk Songs" by Ralph Vaughan-Williams and the Tchaikovsky "Nutcracker Suite."

The orchestra will then accompany the ballet in "Chopiniana"

and a divertissement to Brahms' Sixth Hungarian Rhapsody. The final "Jewel Ballet" will feature Richard Oisen, 15-year-old Millbrae pianist.

An interesting highlight of the concert will be the seldom heard celeste, an instrument which today is virtually a collector's item. It is being loaned for the concert by a San Francisco musician for the Tchaikovsky portion of the symphony.

The corps de ballet includes Helen Anderson, Pat Crawford, Phil Falcone, Janice Hedman, Laura Kjeldahl, Clyde Queen, Sandra Roveta, Russ Sage, Sue Ann Sibley, Marina Anichkov, Heather Morrison, Nona Roesner, Sally Wolfe, Carol Gilmour, Nancee James, Johanna Clark, Patti Fischic, Ursula Martens, Jane Fairfax, Brenda Tonini, Richard Opaterny and Ruth Feliz.

Orchestra members are, violinists section: Patricia Allen, Nelson Gustin, Patricia Jones, Judy Koistira, Marilyn and Suzanne Lindfors, Nancy Lund, Patricia Mascia, Allison McIntyre, Margaret Morley, Mary Ellen Mullan, Beatrice and Tod Myers, Carol Nourse, Joyce Parsons, Anita Riff, Phyllis and Rita Lyano Watson, Bill Whitson and Jeanne Woodhams.

Violincellos: Calvert Cottrell, Curtis Givan, Phyllis Jones, Julian Libet and Janet Parsons; basses: Vicki Lintini, Mickey McPhillips and Janet Queen.

Flutes: Barbara McQuilken, James Nelson and Judy Woodhams; clarinets: Anthony Beltramo, Judith Casagrande, Bill Crawford, Patricia Cromwell, Arthur Ness and Jim Squires; oboes: Albert Borges and Betty Jane Cawthron; bassoon: Bill Kaufmann and Charles Waltz; french horn: Ronnie Kspanet, Reed Miller, Ger-

ry Rinfret and Dick Smith; trumpet: Jerry Boots, Steve Chandler and Bill Schour; trombones: Paul Bostwick, David Rothe and Garry Seully; tuba: Kenneth Little; tympani: Lynn Dowley; percussion: Marjorie Peterson and Helen Thorvald.

Ticket reservations may be made at the Peninsula box offices in San Mateo or Palo Alto.

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