Preshow holiday music to treat audiences of Alley Theater

Audiences attending Alley Theatre's current production, "The Front Page," will once again be treated to pre-show holiday music as the Theatre third annual "Sounds of Christmas" festival got under way on Tuesday.

Twenty-one musical programs formulated by Houston and area university, high school, and church choirs will be presented during the period from Dec. 2 through Dec. 22. Singing from the theatre's sculptural landing, each musical program will begin thirty minutes before curtain time.

Alley Theatre Musical Director Paul Dupree announced the following groups will participate in this year's festival. Curtain times for performances of "The Front Page" are given.

Wed., Dec. 3, 8:00 p.m.—Chamber Choir, Spring Woods High School

Thurs., Dec. 4, 8:00 p.m.—Handbell Choir, South Main Baptist Church (Houston)

Fri., Dec. 5, 8:30 p.m.—Ladies Handbell Choir, Tallowood Baptist Church

Sat., Dec. 6, 5:00 p.m.—Philadelphia, South Main Baptist Church (Houston)

Sat., Dec. 6, 9:00 p.m.—South Houston High School Choir

Sun., Dec. 7, 2:30 p.m.—Handbell Choir, South Main Baptist Church

Sun., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.—Park View Intermediate School Choir

Tues., Dec. 9, 8:00 p.m.—Young Generation Singers, South Main Baptist Church

Wed., Dec. 10, 8:00 p.m.—Olle Middle School Choir

Thurs., Dec. 11, 8:30 p.m.—High School for the Performing Arts Girls Chorus

Fri., Dec. 12, 8:30 p.m.—Chapel Handbell Choir, Westbury Baptist Church

Sat., Dec. 13, 5:00 p.m.—First Baptist Church Youth Choir, Port Arthur

Sat., Dec. 13, 9:00 p.m.—Stratford High School Choir

Sun., Dec. 14, 2:30 p.m.—Singers of the Cross, St. Lukes Methodist Church

Sun., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.—Spring Woods Junior High School

Tues., Dec. 16, 8:00 p.m.—Westchester High School Choir

Wed., Dec. 17, 8:00 p.m.—Adult Chohr, Willow Meadows Baptist Church

Thurs., Dec. 18, 8:30 p.m.—NorthBrook High School Choir

Fri., Dec. 19, 8:30 p.m.—Ladies Handbell Choir, Westbury Baptist Church

Sat., Dec. 20, 5:00 p.m.—Clarion Handbell Choir, South Main Baptist Church

Sun., Dec. 21, 2:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir, Westbury Baptist Church

Tickets for "The Front Page" which will run through Jan. 11, 1976 are available from the Alley Box Office, 615 Texas Ave., 228-8421 or all six Foley's Ticket Centers.

University of Houston happenings

Activities scheduled during the first part of December at the University of Houston Central Campus include,

Thursday, Dec. 4 — A Civil Liberties Conference, sponsored by the Program Council, will be held at 8 p.m. in the Dallas El Paso and San Antonio Rooms of University Center. A karate demonstration, boxing and interfraternity bouts are scheduled at 7 p.m. in Jeppesen Stadium.

The fifth annual Great American Print Sale will be held by the UH Art Department Print Club from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building, Rooms 334 and 336 through Friday. The sale will benefit the scholarship fund.

And the Visiting Scholars Program will hear Karl E. Weick Jr., professor of psychology and organizational behavior at Cornell University speak on "Organizations as Contexts; Perceptual Systems in Organizations." The seminar will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 634 of the Science and Research Building.

Friday, Dec. 5 — The Program Council will sponsor a Christmas celebration complete with snow, high school choir concert and refreshments from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in University Center. And the UH Band will give a concert at 1 p.m. in the University Center Arbor.

A special collections exhibit of Bibles and related materials will open at 3 p.m. on the eighth floor of the M. D. Anderson Memorial Library. And the film 'Super Session," sponsored by the Program Council, is scheduled in Auditorium 2 of Agnes Arnold Hall at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. through Saturday.

The UH Christmas Choral Concert is scheduled for 8 p.m. in the Cullen Auditorium. Admission is free. The film "Alexander Nevski" will be shown in Agnes Arnold Hall, Auditorium 1 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6 — The UH vs. California State Polytech basketball game is slated for 7:30 p.m. in Hofheinz Pavilion.

Sunday, Dec. 7 — A concert of Loggins and Messina will be held at 8 p.m. in Hofheinz Pavilion.

Tuesday, Dec. 9 — Sgt. Leonard Matlovich will lecture on "Gays in the Military." The program is sponsored by the Program Council and UH chapter of the Gay Activist Alliance at 7:30 p.m. in the Houston Room of University Center.

Wednesday, Dec. 10 — The UH Chamber Music Ensemble will play at 8 p.m. in Dudley Recital Hall of the Fine Arts Building. The concert is free.

Symphony to host guest conductor

Sergiu Commissiona, music director of the Baltimore Symphony, opens a two-week guest conducting engagement with the Houston Symphony at concerts Sunday (Dec. 7) at 2:30 p.m., Monday (Dec. 8) at 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday (Dec. 9) at 8:30 p.m. in Jones Hall.

Comissiona, who made a brilliant debut here two seasons ago, will be joined by local violinist Fredell Lack, making her ninth appearance with the orchestra since 1943. Lack, artist-in-residence at the University of Houston and founder and first violinist of the Lyric Art String Quartet, will be heard in Prokofieff's First Violin Concerto.

Receiving its first performance at symphony subscription concerts will be the Ninth Symphony of Dmitri Shostakovich, the Soviet composer who died last August. Periodically in and out of favor in his homeland, depending on the mood of the Soviet authorities, Shostakovich was hailed for his Symphony at its premiere in 1945. Less than a year later, however, he was chastised on grounds that the work's light tone was an improper reflection of the Soviet peoples' spirit.

Debussy's "Images" for Orchestra will open the performances.

Tickets are on sale at the Symphony ticket office, lower level, Jones Hall, phone 224-4240.

Lunch Bunch to explore India's culture

The Dec. 10 meeting of the Lunch Bunch will take a trip to India via classical Indian dances performed by Rathna Kumar. A short commentary will follow along with time for questions and answers.

The Lunch Bunch meets every Wednesday in the Central Library, 500 McKinney at Smith, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy the coffee provided free of charge by the library.

HEARING TESTS SET FOR HOUSTON and PASADENA

Free electronic hearing tests will be given at Beltone Hearing Aid offices Monday thru Friday, December 3rd through 13th, 1975.

Factory Trained Hearing Aid Specialists will be at the offices listed below to perform the tests.

Anyone who has trouble hearing or understanding is welcome to have a test using the latest electronic equipment to determine his or her particular loss. Diagrams showing how the ear works and some of the causes of hearing loss will be available. Everyone should have a hearing test at least once a year if there is any trouble at all hearing clearly. Even people now wearing a hearing aid or those who have been told nothing could be done for them should have a hearing test and find out about the latest methods of hearing correction.

The free hearing tests will be given at Beltone, 6611 Main Street, 797-9686; 3924 N. Shepherd Dr., 691-3001; and 1207 S. Main Street, Pasadena, 477-4835. If you can't get there on these days, call and arrange for an appointment at another time.

Blaffer Gallery to host UH faculty art exhibit

The Sarah Campbell Blaffer Gallery will host the faculty art exhibit through Dec. 18 in the Fine Arts Building on the University of Houston Central Campus.

Paintings, sculpture, drawings, etchings and lithographs will be among the art work displayed in the gallery in this free exhibit.

Blaffer Gallery is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. New hours will be announced for 1976.

Booklet explains amniocentesis test for mothers-to-be

We can all feel for the family who has a child with a birth defect. And, we can understand the agony such a couple must go through when planning to have another child.

But, today couples have genetic counseling available to them, as well as a test that can reveal many of the more common genetic defects.

The test is amniocentesis, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has a booklet that explains how the test works and whap it shows. For a free copy of "The Right to be Well Born," write to Consumer Information, Dept. 68, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

The pamphlet includes the following:

Amniocentesis works this way: The doctor checks the exact position of the baby with an ultra-sonic scanner. Then he inserts a hollow needle into the uterine cavity — being careful to stop the needle well short of the baby. The needle gathers a small amount of the ainiotic fluid, which will be tested in the lab. If there is an abnormality in the fetal cells in the fluid, it will also be present in the fetus. It may take up to four weeks to get the results of the test. And, if the test does show an abnormality, then the couple can make the decision whether to have or not to have the child.

"The Right to be Well Born" is one of more than 250 selected federal consumer publications listed in the current edition of the "Consumer Information Index."



ARTIST'S RENDITION OF NEW HOUSTON TRUNK FACTORY
Store to Open This Month in Champions Village 3

Houston Trunk Factory opens store in Champions Village 3

On the heels of a Nov. 15th opening of their new Red Bird Mall Store in Dallas. Houston Trunk Factory has announced the opening of a new store.

This one, at Champions Village 3 off of FM 1960 West, is scheduled to open early in December. Andrew M. Scardino Jr., the president of the locally based firm announced that construction of the store is on schedule and the early December target date will be met. The corner location faces the main traffic artery and convenient parking is available immediately in front of the store.

The focal point of the interior design will be a massive display of personal leather goods with easy customer access on four sides. These will be open displays which will be individually lighted and then accented from above by an artificial skylight. The Luggage, Gift, Handbag and Business Case Departments will be contained in boutique areas around the perimeter of the store surrounding the leather goods island.

Officers of the 88-year-old firm are Andrew M. Scardino Sr., chairman of the board; Andrew M. Scardino Jr., president; A. H. Arnim, vice-president, and T. H. Norman, corporate secretary.

Scardino said the grand opening date should be announced within a few days. If a customer is looking for anything from a key case to an elegant piece of luggage, from a business case to a backpack, from a letter opener to a fine handbag, it will be in stock at Houston Trunk Factory's new Champion Village 3 store.

This will be the 12th full-line store for Houston Trunk Factory and the 19th operating unit including lease departments.

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