

INSIDE THIS EDITION: OLD TV AND NEW TV; SPIDER-MAN REVIEWED AND A TRIP TO GROUND ZERO



THE MUSIC CORNER

With David Palladino

Westfield Symphony Ends Season With Aida

By DAVID PALLADINO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO), under the direction of Maestro David Wroe, offered their exciting season-ending concert performance of *Aida* by Giuseppe Verdi this past Saturday night, to a capacity audience at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

The excitement created by this concert brought the audience to standing ovations even before the intermission.

The most impressive array of solo and choral voices arranged by Wroe worked beautifully with the refined orchestra to produce a most excellent ensemble blend.

Solo voices included tenor Otoniel Gonzaga as Radames, soprano Bridgett Hooks as Aida, soprano Judith Engel as Amneris, bass-baritone Frank Martinelli as the King, Armando Mora as Amanasro and Mark Schaible as Ramfis.

While the voices were young, they all performed admirably, and beyond. Several voices were of particular note.

Commanding soprano Engel produced a beautifully scornful tone as Amneris, the would-be wife of Radames. Her tone was pure and powerful, with beautiful pitch and volume.

Hooks possessed a powerful voice, whose pitch extended strongly throughout her full range, which was extensive. Her volume control was extraordinary which most assuredly, added to the drama of her interpretation.

One of the male voices of note was tenor Gonzaga, who performed Radames. While his voice seemed initially somewhat tight, Gonzaga warmed up to produce a golden sound, especially on his high notes, which were all produced with a technique that highlighted perfect pitch and beautiful intonation.

Other male voices of note was the King, bass-baritone Martinelli, who

offered a sobering, rich tone and Armando Mora as Amanasro, who gave a wonderful dramatic portrayal of his character. Mark Schnable as Ramfis, also produced a refined, authoritative sound, which filled the church venue.

The full ensemble brought a glorious close to the second act with "Gloria all'Egitto." Rarely does one

hear the tenor take the jump up to the B-flat in the manner in which it was expressed by Verdi — at the end of the dramatic, most impressive, and most exciting.

The able Princeton Pro Musica choir ensemble also produced a full sound, which resounded well with their placement in the balcony, above the string bass section of the orchestra. While their segments were sparse, when they were called upon, they performed.

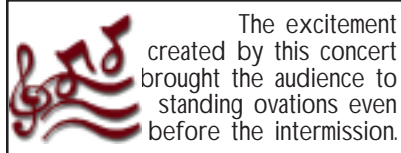
The separate female and male choir segments both possessed unity of sound and clarity of pronunciation.

The warm Presbyterian Church venue provides a wonderful acoustic hall for voice.

Musicians in the orchestra deserve special recognition. The trumpet section was even more powerful and accurate with Donald Batchelder returning to perform. French horn intonation was outstanding as well as several solo sections by Principal clarinetist William Shadel. Cookie, the concertmaster was brilliant in his several solo segments as well.

While major sections of the story were skipped due to time constraints, such as the Temple Scene, the overarching idea of the opera was kept intact — the forbidden love between the victorious general Radames and the enslaved Ethiopian princess Aida.

While the overture would have been appreciated, the ensemble beautifully elucidated the story in two riveting hours.



The excitement created by this concert brought the audience to standing ovations even before the intermission.

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT



Downtown Draws Art Admirers, While WAA Members Receive Awards

By MILLICENT K. BRODY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Early on a beautiful May 11 Saturday morning, while many Westfield residents were just getting to the breakfast table, more than 70 artists were busy setting up displays of their artwork.

Scattered throughout the main thoroughfare of Westfield, visitors to the town were able to meander and chat with sculptors, water colorists, oil paint-

ers, portrait artists, and photographers.

"The day was beautiful," said Barbara Schwinn, President of the Westfield Art Association (WAA), who presents the show. "Visitors were able to appreciate the many different mediums displayed in one local area."

"I was personally delighted to stroll the exhibit and chat with many of the artists who have contributed so much to the town of Westfield. It was such an extraordinary display of talent," said Sherry Cronin, Executive Director of the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC).

Well-known in the art world, Judge Stephen Sennott, Executive Director of City Without Walls gallery, at Gateway Center in Newark said, "Jurying art is a wonderful way to spend the day."

Approximately \$1,500 in prize money was awarded to the artists. Special to the event is the selection of a piece of art that displays a scene of Westfield. It is purchased and hung in the offices of the DWC and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC).

"Westfield Train Station," an oil painting by Burton Longenbach was chosen as the winner of the Westfield Purchase Award.

"It was a great show," said Meg Mehorter Executive Assistant of the DWC. "While looking at your favorite artwork, toes were tapping and fingers snapping, for great music was heard throughout the day."

Originally from Scotch Plains, and now a resident of Manhattan, *Continued on Page 19*



WINNING SCULPTURES...Spiro is pictured with "Fish," a metal sculpture which captured the Award of Excellence during Saturday's Art in Westfield show and sale in downtown Westfield.



JAMMIN' IN THE DOWNTOWN...Former Scotch Plains resident Cynthia Sayer, center, and her group from Manhattan joined in the Art in Westfield festivities last Saturday. Sayer is a banjo player and vocalist, while Dan Levinson, right, plays clarinet and Mike Weatherly, left, commands the bass.



WAA Award Recipients

Awards of Excellence - \$150
Cammon, "On Their Backs," Charcoal
Berenson, "Chiara & Anna, Sisters," black and white photograph
Wilkinson, "Apples," oil
Spiro, "Fish," metal sculpture

Awards of Merit - \$100
DiBiase, "Sculpture of Tragedy," color photograph
Kenyatta, "Life's Journey," black and white photograph
Ziegler, "Signs of Spring," acrylic
Cheng, "Peony," watercolor on silk

Honorable Mention - \$50 in Westfield Gift Coins

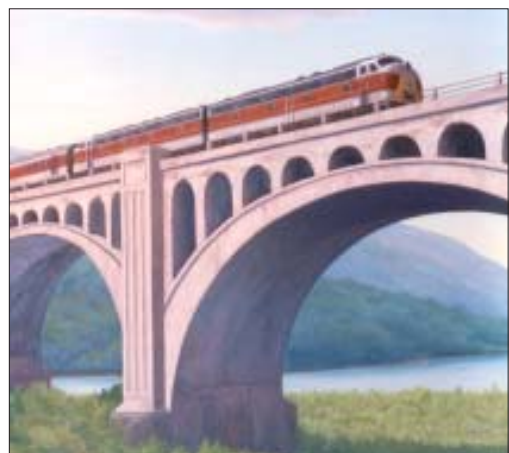
Schaeffer, "Last Jump," oil
Zietchick, "Curves," colorgraph
Kolar "Peeling Potatoes," oil on board
Weaver, "Libations," oil
Morehouse, "Birch Trees," lithograph
Howard, "The Fence," etching
Lenga, "Skater," color photograph
Annis, "Magnolias," watercolor

Westfield Scene Purchase Award
Logenbach, "Westfield Train Station," oil

Rail Transfer Station Will Be Beautified With Murals Painted By Tomasulo Gallery Director, Valeri Larko

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — Valeri Larko, Director of Union County College's Tomasulo Art Gallery in Cranford, has been commissioned to paint



Marylou Morano for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE...This portion of Valeri Larko's remarkable mural will grace the Secaucus Transfer Station.

four murals which will hang in the north mezzanine waiting room of the Secaucus Transfer Station, cur-

rently under construction and scheduled to be open early 2003.

NJ Transit and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts jointly awarded the commission. Larko, who resides in Summit, was one of nine New Jersey artists invited to submit a proposal and one of three selected. She is the only artist who is creating murals for the Transfer Station, which upon completion, is slated to be the largest in the state.

Born on Long Island and raised in the town of Lake Parsippany, Larko attended the DuCret School of the Arts in Plainfield and the Arts Students League in New York.

While she intended to become a figure painter, while living in Jersey City, she gravitated towards urban and industrial landscapes.

"Jersey City has a number of industrial parks. Instead of leaving the area to paint, I started to create panoramics of urban and

industrial areas, then I selected sections of larger paintings and created close-ups with more intricate detail," she explained.

"As I did so, my painting began to take on more of a sculptural quality," she reported. This change in focus led to a series of paintings named "The Salvage Yard Series," in which piles of computers, refrigerators, car mufflers and other castaways are portrayed with the intricate detail of her artist's eye.

"Our society says buy, buy, buy, which is good for the economy, but we don't consider what happens to the products when they are no longer of use to us. The objects in 'The Salvage Yard Series' eventually get crushed and recycled. Products take on an entirely new quality when they are heaped in a junk pile waiting to be crushed," the artist explained.

While the Secaucus Transfer Station murals are a far cry from items in a salvage yard, it is easy to see Larko's attention to detail in both set of work. Without the assurance that she would be awarded the



MARYLOU MORANO FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES
MURAL ARTIST...Tomasulo Gallery Art Director Valeri Larko stands before her mural.

project, Larko spent hours in research and preliminary studies to develop a proposal.

The only guidelines given explained the work must be colorful, historic and encompass a theme that tied together the northern half of New Jersey.

"I came upon an idea to paint bridges and trains from the northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest corners of the northern half of the state," Larko explained.

With the help of train historian Walt Grosselfinger, also President of the United Rail Road Association, *Continued on Page 19*

SP-F Arts Association Announces Names of Members' Show Winners

SCOTCH PLAINS — Following a reception to meet the artists during the Members' Show of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SP-F) Arts Association, the winners were announced by Association President Ruth Gunther.

Best in Show: Arlene Melchior, "The Violinist," oil painting.

Oil and Acrylic Painting: First Place, Steve Tomczyk, "Grand Isle," oil painting; Second Place, Ken Malpas, "Angelfish," acrylic; and Third Place, Grace McDonald, "Summer Garden 3," oil painting.

Watercolor: First Place, Anne Gibbons, "Harriet's Porch"; Second Place, Phil Kass, "What Makes It Work," and Third Place, Jocelyn Wong, "Summer Retreat in Pennsylvania."

Pencil and Mixed Media: First Place, Barbara Swindlehurst, "Man in White Hat," pencil and Second Place, Ruth Grabner, "The Floral Bouquet," mixed media.

Photography: First Place, Bob Hahn, "Saintes, Fr." and Honorable Mention, Pete Hovanec, "Milwaukee Art Museum."

The program is sponsored by the SP-F Arts Association. The public is invited to attend the group's free art demonstrations at the Fanwood Com-

munity Center. The next demonstration will be held on Wednesday, May 15. For more information, please call Mr. Hahn at (908) 233-7458.



ART EXPERTS...The Members' Show of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SP-F) Arts Association was judged by Ann Swain of Swain's Gallery in Plainfield, left. She is joined by SP-F Arts Association President Ruth Gunther.

WHS Band Pays Homage To NATO

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Seventy members of the Blue Devils, the Westfield High School (WHS) Marching Band traveled to Norfolk Virginia last month to participate in the "Virginia International Tattoo," an extravaganza of pageantry and patriotism that was part of the 6th Annual Virginia Arts Festival.

The group returned with a silver medal for placing second in their category and "fourth place" honors overall.

Presented in the tradition of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Nova Scotia International Tattoo, the "Virginia International Tattoo" draws crowds from all over North America.

Performed on Norfolk's Scope, the Tattoo featured marching bands, military drill teams, gymnasts, dancers and choirs from around the world. Over 700 performers participated in this year's event.

The Blue Devils joined 40 other high school marching bands from all over the country. Participants were selected by application, which included submitting a video of a performance and reference recommendations.

The "Virginia International Tattoo" coincided with Virginia's 49th International Azalea Parade which salutes the North American Treaty Organization (NATO). Each year, a member of NATO is selected to be Most Honored Nation; this year's country was Greece.

"A band represented every country," said Michael Fackelman, WHS Marching Band Director, adding that the Blue Devils represented Spain.

The performing marching bands were allowed to select the music they wished to play, according to Fackelman, who said that the WHS Marching Band performed selections they had been playing all year.

"We had a quick refresher rehearsal before the parade," he said.

Money to help defray the cost of the four-day trip was raised by fundraisers such as candy, entertainment book and pizza sales.

The WHS Marching Band, along with six adult chaperones, traveled by bus and stayed at the Hilton Hotel in Norfolk.

"A great bunch of young adults went on this trip. We had no problems, and we received a nice response from everyone we met," said Fackelman.

While in Virginia, the WHS March- *Continued on Page 19*



Clubhouse

ANTIQUES & FURNISHINGS

Mountainside, NJ

You are cordially invited to explore our six rooms of fine antiques, classic reproductions, one-of-a-kind chandeliers and unique gift items. We are purveyors of Crabtree & Evelyn Bath & Body Products and maintain a vast selection of top quality candles. Clubhouse Antiques & Furnishings is your destination for fine products and exceptional values.

865 MOUNTAIN AVE. • MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092
(Between Maxwell's & Fleet Bank)
Telephone 908 789-7600 • Fax 908 789-3322
email clubhousefurnish@aol.com