

INSIDE A&E: JUNIOR LEAGUE DRAWS TOP AUTHORS; MORE LOCAL STARS

Arts & Entertainment

The Professionals Agree: Caroline Yost Of WF Was Born to Take Center Stage

By MICHELLE HELEN Le POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

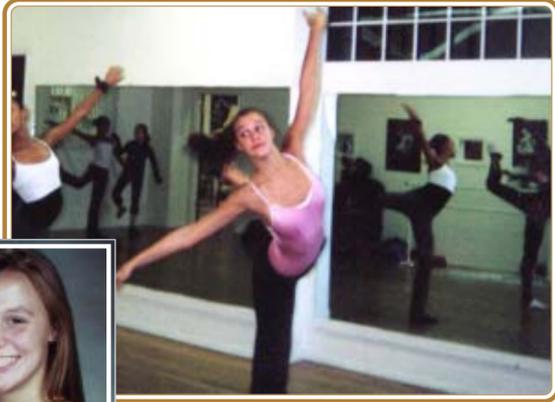
WESTFIELD - This weekend, Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21, Westfield High School sophomore Caroline Yost will perform on the Main Stage in the musical theater showcase *New York, New York, A Helluva Town* at the Somerset County Vocational Technical High School (SCVTHS) in Bridgewater.

Despite the fact that she has been dancing since around the age of four or five, Caroline's interest in musical theater has been piqued, especially since she has taken musical theater classes at SCVTHS.

Sheila Buttermore, who instructs dance at SCVTHS' Performing Arts Department, told *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, "Caroline works very hard every day. She gives 150 percent in class and 150 percent in rehearsal. She has what it takes to be a professional."

In fact, Ms. Buttermore has so much faith in Caroline's aptitude that, if the teenager continues on the same track, she would encourage her to choreograph next year's musical theater showcase at SCVTHS.

"She is quite an accomplished dancer," said Ms. Buttermore. "She auditioned for both the dance and musical theater program and I feel that she is open to exploring all areas so she can be the best performer if she decides to pursue this professionally."



POISE AND GRACE... Westfield High School student Caroline Yost demonstrates all of the qualities found in a graceful dancer.

However, make no mistake. Caroline, who currently maintains a 3.9 grade point average, seeks to be a well-rounded student and individual. It is essential to her that she attends a good college, keeps her grades up and maintains strong discipline.

"I never want to put my heart into something and not have it be a part of my life for good," said the career-oriented teen, who manages four challenging academic subjects and two rigorous hours of discipline at the Vo-Tech.



Caroline Yost

TAKE THE STAGE Into the Woods Cast Delightful Spell on CDC Audience Saturday

Michelle Le Poidevin filling in for Theater Reviewer Susan Dougherty

By MICHELLE HELEN Le POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD - From the moment they enter the Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC) theater to view *Into the Woods*, set designer Maurice Moran and lighting designer Mark Reilly cast a spell on audience members with enchanting lighting on the theater walls and towering trees set behind three open fairy tale tomes.

Not only is the stage set, but Director Elizabeth Howard and Producer Ann Mineur Weeks invite visitors to jump headfirst into their favorite fables.

Each of the characters, especially the wicked yet somewhat loveable Witch (Gina Liana), the docile Cinderella (Jennifer Randolph), the angst-ridden Baker (Frank Andrews) and Baker's Wife (Melissa Loderstedt), the comical Little Red Riding Hood (Christine Danelson) and directionless Jack (Jonathan Schwartz), were spectacularly illustrated.

Ms. Loderstedt, in particular, has emerged as a star with undeniable presence and superior vocals since last witnessed by this reviewer at a CDC production in the late 1990s.

Ms. Liana's "Witch" is positively phenomenal, especially when she raps her way through one of the scenes, earning lots of laughter from the audience. Proving her versatility and amazing vocal range, she manages to tug at the heartstrings when she begs Rapunzel to remain a child with by staying with

her in "Stay With Me". In Act II's "Last Midnight," her voice effortlessly rises to the occasion and it is easy to see that this actress's star is taking off.

An Arizona native, Ms. Randolph is also one of the play's brightest stars, with a voice few could match and superb dramatic technique, especially when she consoles Little Red in "No One Is Alone."

It's unfathomable that Ms. Danelson is only a senior at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark, because her comedic acting skills resemble those of a veteran performer. Truly impressive!

Both Mr. Schwartz, a third-generation CDC actor, perfectly translates the confused and misguided Jack of "Beanstalk" fame, while Mr. Andrews, a newcomer to the CDC, shows he is a seasoned performer, especially when he wonders if he learns of the tragic fate which befalls his wife and encounters his new-found father, played commendably by John Marinko, who also excels as the play's narrator.

As the dynamic and dashing lover boys of the show, Rich Sibello (Rapunzel's Prince) and Paul Salvatoriello (Cinderella's Prince) use their deep, rich operatic voices to offer a fabulous duet, "Agony," which was rather Broadway caliber.

Chris King as the salacious, sadistic and salivating Wolf was absolutely hysterical. King's performance is reminiscent of a child with by staying with



SWEET SOUNDS... The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Janet Lyman, performed its final concert for the season at Whispering Knoll Assisted Living Center in Edison. The symphony, whose repertoire contains the works of Beethoven, Bizet, Offenbach and Tchaikovsky, is comprised of musicians ranging in age from seven to adult. They rehearsed weekly since October at Zion Lutheran Church in Clark. The NJWA Summer Symphony Orchestra, also conducted by Ms. Lyman, will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, beginning June 28, at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield. For more information, please call (908) 789-9696 or visit the NJWA office at 150-152 East Broad Street in Westfield.

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"Savia Gemmata" by Mindy Lighthipe.

Get Outta The House

By CAROL F. DAVIS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Artist **Mindy Lighthipe**, spotlighted several weeks ago in the Arts & Entertainment section of *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, will exhibit 37 of her most recent works, including watercolors, prints, and colored pencil originals at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown. **Solo with Nature** will be an exhibit through Tuesday, May 31. Call (973) 326-7600 for hours and directions or visit <http://parks.morris.nj.us/parks/frelarbmain.htm>. Admission is free.

The annual **Friends of Sleepy Hollow Yard Sale** will take place on Sunday, May 22, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Just drive to the beautiful Sleepy Hollow area of Plainfield, and you'll have no trouble spotting the homes that are participating - and there are many. They will be decorated with balloons, and they should all be able to provide you with a map of all the participants. Get there early for the best selection, or later in the day for the best prices.

On Sunday, May 22, there will be a spring concert by The Madrigal Singers, entitled **"Rogues, Rascals, and Redemption."** The performance of six centuries of a cappella choral music will also include poetry readings. It begins at 4 p.m. at Westfield's First United Methodist Church, One East Broad Street. The suggested donation is \$10. Please call (908) 233-1570 for more information.

The new concert hall in the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts at Madison's Drew University will be the setting for **Clap Your Hands!** The clap-happy tunes by Gershwin, Porter, Berlin, and others is a production of Summit Chorale, and will take place on Saturday, May 21, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$8 to \$20, and can be purchased by calling (973) 292-1186, visiting www.summitchorale.org, or at the door.

Also on May 21, an adult basket-making workshop will be offered at the Trailside Nature and Science Center at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside from 1 to 4 p.m. Participants will make an exquisite, ribbed basket with a wisteria handle, with

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Hundreds of Reasons Why Westfield Pupils Burst Beyond Creative Barriers

By MICHELLE HELEN Le POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - Nearly 300 varied examples of artwork created by students enrolled in Westfield Public Schools will be displayed inside the Westfield High School (WHS) gymnasium through today, Thursday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Each of these pieces, which range from sculpture, mixed media, oil pastel, acrylic, ceramics, fiber, mosaic and stained glass, papier-mâché, wood, even tin and metals, confirm this district's drive to stay ahead of the curve in teaching fine arts.

One of the spotlighted paintings, a mixed media landscape collage featuring famous European structures, was arranged by Art 4 student Elizabeth Strickland.

Two of her proudest admirers, WHS students, told *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that Elizabeth will be polishing her creative skills at an art school in California.

Other stars in the exhibit include award-winning artist Philip Kim, who especially astounded me with his very long oil pastel featuring a figure extending its hand. His aptitude supported further by other paintings exhibited there by Philip, it is no wonder that this student has received so many accolades.

Griff Kimmins, an Art 4 student, was equally remarkable especially judging by the range of media he pursued, excelling at every one, especially his chalk pastel self-portrait.

Nearby, Art 3 student Anny Wu showed her comical side with a pastel portrait of a girl balancing a spoon on her nose. Stephanie Lederman, another Art 3 student, offered a three-dimensional portrait with acrylics and what appeared to be three canvasses. The girl's face was human, while her neck and shoulders seemed mechanical.

Art 3 pupil Samantha Manetti grabbed a fair amount of attention with her Conte crayon depiction of two friends chatting with coffee, and not far away from that piece, a marvelous charcoal and chalk sketch of a basket of fruit. Wonderful range of blacks and whites were demonstrated in the latter piece.

Woods I student Bob Miller crafted a cozy upholstered foot stool any mother would love for resting her tired feet, while eighth graders like Brianna Goncalves and Amber Lutey impressed designs on diamonds of tin and metal, embellished with vibrant colors, to create decorative pieces perfect for any home décor.

Eighth graders Sean Feeney and Eric Farenholt seemed to poke fun at some political characters using papier-mâché.

Sean's funny guy looked like President George W. Bush, but Eric's creation resembled Mr. Kerry.

Libby Albright designed one of the exhibit's most distinguished pieces, a mirror with mosaic and stained

with her craypas abstract in reds, oranges and ambers, while Tracy Kaplan used the same medium to detail a cheerful sunflower against a periwinkle backdrop.

Four elementary school students Jay Yingling, Catherine Filipowski, Kenny



Michelle Helen Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ART RULES THE SCHOOLS... Students in Westfield Public Schools displayed their finest work in the annual art show, which will be held through today, Thursday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The left panel on the easel features Samantha Manetti's charcoal basket of fruit, Griff Kimmins' chalk pastel portrait, and a ceramic independent study piece by Courtney Franko. The center panel is an oil pastel by Philip Kim. The easel's right panel spotlights a work by Art 3 student Anny Wu, Christa Ricci's charcoal of a banded spoon, and sixth grader Tracy Kaplan's sunflower in craypas.

glass. Sentiments like "Broken Memories" and "A memory, each memory a part of my heart, as the memories run through my mind," were painted on the frame of the mirror.

Who wouldn't want to buy one of the chic scarves hand-knit by seniors or the softly painted chair with purple hydrangeas by Eighth grader Marissa Rothfelder? Sixth graders Madeline Komar dazzled visitors to the exhibit

Sipe, and Amanda Centrella used pastels and watercolors, respectively, to craft separate depictions of colorful fish, which, when juxtaposed, resembled an ocean.

Returning to the upper grade level, Art 4 student Elizabeth Strickland displayed an ornate and eye-catching relief painting with hues of cobalt, yellow and green. Katie Okamoto's serious charcoal and chalk portrait, an independent study, was quite pensive and serious.

In ceramics, Courtney Franko's stood out with her independent study pieces, which were stunning enough to purchase, while tiles designed with floral and geometric images by Cindy Yang and Robert Whitehead were also praiseworthy.

Roosevelt Intermediate students kicked things up a notch with a tent of twinkling white lights that summoned visitors to enjoy a display of hanging scrolls and paintings in black and white. Additionally, a revolving display of bottles embellished with glitter, feathers

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The Music Corner WITH BRAD TINFOW

Cherubini by CAS, Youth Orchestra Works Exhilarated

By BRAD TINFOW
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - The Choral Art Society (CAS) of New Jersey, directed by James Little, and the New Jersey Youth Chorus, led by Patricia Joyce, shared the stage for an evening concert on May 14 at the First Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

The CAS began with the *Requiem Mass in C minor* by Luigi Cherubini. After the intermission, the New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC) performed nearly to the end of the concert, which the CAS finished with the brief *Coronation Anthem I* ("Zadok the Priest") by Handel.

This concert introduced me to the Cherubini work, which I found very rewarding on first hearing. I overheard some musicians during the intermission talking about the composer's bor-

soloists, where Cherubini used none. The music featured some highly chromatic and hauntingly beautiful melody and harmony that was, in fact, quite original.

Like Mozart, Cherubini used various keys for the different sections of the piece, and wrote the choral parts mostly in a homophonic style with forays into counterpoint during more stirring sections. The late classic period saw many composers (Beethoven included) employing contrapuntal segments in their pieces for heightened dramatic tension.

The chorus was generally quite good. There were no issues regarding pitch accuracy or missed entrances, and the singers performed with the energy and commitment that Mr. Little and the composer demanded. Due to their higher number, the women dominated, but the tenors and basses held their own



Brad Tinfow for The Westfield Leader and The Times
APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE... Members of the Choral Art Society of New Jersey receive hearty applause at the conclusion of Saturday's concert.

rowing from Mozart's great (but unfinished) *Requiem in D minor*. Aside from some similarity in tempo and mood (which the Latin text surely dictates anyway), and perhaps some structural parallels, Cherubini's version never seemed derivative. Mozart also used four

when called upon to introduce or answer a fugue subject. The relative dearth of male singers was noticeable mostly in softer passages, where they could not match the women in sound quality.

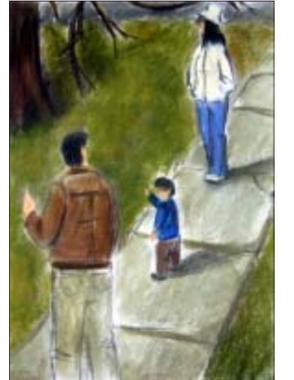
The orchestral instrumentalists had difficult parts to play, and because they were few, their playing was quite exposed. There were times in which the violins' sixths and thirds were not entirely in tune or in synch rhythmically. On the other hand, the wind playing was first rate, and the string players who were featured for solos or duets played exceptionally well.

For anyone, like myself, who was not familiar with the piece, this very good rendition was a great way to become acquainted with a real gem of a work. The program notes stated that

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Michelle Helen Le Poidevin for The Leader/Times
Katie Okamoto, independent study, charcoal and chalk.



Michelle Helen Le Poidevin for The Leader/Times
Alan Tso, Art 3, pastel.



Michelle Helen Le Poidevin for The Leader/Times
Elizabeth Willis, Art 4, chalk pastels.