

INSIDE: GALLERY EXHIBITIONS, MILLION DOLLAR BABY REVIEWED

# Arts & Entertainment



STELLAR SOPRANO...Second soprano Ellen Goff Entrikey, center, impressed critics with her solo in the *Virgam Virtutis* section during the Choral Arts Society's winter concert at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield on Saturday evening.

## Handel's Genius Shone Through At Choral Art Society's Concert

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

eclectic musical mix of sacred and secular, old and new. Music Director James Little conducted the performance at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

composer wrote in his early 20s, was scored for five-part chorus and five soloists. In his program notes, Mr. Little postulated that the original performers "must have been highly skilled," as "Handel showed no mercy to any of them...in this demanding work."



CONSTRUCTION SITE...St. Paul's Episcopal Church has been transformed into a construction site where the new organ is being assembled. Pictured, above, the organ's expression shades are spread atop the church pews, awaiting placement.

## St. Paul's Church to Soar With State-of-the-Art, Custom-Designed Organ

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

During an interview with *The Leader/Times*, Mr. Banks also pointed out the organ's pipe racks, which hold up the pipes, as well as its expression shades.

The chorus members, singing at a higher pitch than in Handel's era, were challenged in maintaining their intonation in the upper registers. The sopranos had to struggle with sustained high A's and B flats. The tenors and basses seemed to be singing above their comfort range some of the time.

A small orchestra with harpsichord accompanied the chorus, often doubling the vocal parts. With the live acoustics of the church, the effect of four-part counterpoint in full chorus with orchestra could be blurred at times. Despite these obstacles, the intent of the music was made clear, and some of the future Handel's genius shone through. The *Gloria Patri et Iglio* finale, in which the soloists joined in singing the chorus parts, was particularly rousing.

Two of the soloists, soprano Andi Campbell and bass R. Dale Livingston, were repeat performers from last year's winter concert. Second soprano Ellen Goff Entrikey, alto Luthian Brackett, and tenor Steven Sands comprised the remaining soloists.

Ms. Entrikey's solo in the *Virgam Virtutis* section demonstrated excellent breath control and smooth handling of extended phrases. Her voice sounded consistently good from top to bottom, and her trills were especially fine.

Ms. Campbell sang her solo in the more rapid *Tecum Principium*, which also contained long phrases. Ms. Campbell, who had performed so well in Haydn's *Paukenmesse* last year, had more difficulty here. Although her sound was still sweet and warm, she showed less command of her phrasing and intonation, tending to fall short in the latter a number of times. She also lagged in tempo once or twice, but this may have been due to her inability to see the conductor well.

Handel's writing made this a challenging movement for anyone to sing. The other soloists were comparatively underutilized, but all sang very well.

After intermission, the CAS Chamber Chorus, a group of about 16 singers selected from the full group, sang madrigals by Webbe, Baksa, and Lennon/McCartney (arranged by others in madrigal style) without instrumental accompaniment. The members were arranged in quartets in a successful effort to maximize the feeling of ensemble.

These intimate pieces were of a completely different character than the Handel, and they were performed divinely. In Webbe's "Come Live with Me," the sopranos were hammering away at the top of their range, but here they did it relatively softly and with no intonation problems.

The second selection was a solo for Ms. Entrikey, Arne's "When Daisies Pied," which Mr. Little accompanied on harpsichord. Ms. Entrikey showed superb technique, musicality, and humor in her rendition of the text, which referred to "Cuckoos" mocking married men in the spring.

Each verse was repeated with lovely ornamentation (also of the "cuckoo" sounds), which Mr. Little echoed on the harpsichord. It was easily the most polished, charming, and entertaining piece of the evening.

Baksa's "My True-Love Has My Heart" and the arrangements in madrigal style of "Can't Buy Me Love" and "Ticket to Ride" employed more modern harmony and were sung by the Chamber Chorus with style, elegance, and a dash of humor.

The final work on the program was John Rutter's *Birthday Madrigals*, five

WESTFIELD - After traveling all over the United States and Canada to select the best builder for the church's new custom-designed organ, Charles Banks, Minister of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield, settled on the elaborate and elegant Opus 74 manufactured by Cornell Zimmer Organ Builder in Denver, N.C.

Currently, parts and pieces of the organ are strewn across the church's pews and stored in boxes throughout the hallways, however, the organ's console, which contains six manual divisions and 200 drawer knobs to activate the over 3,000 pipes, is intact - bringing a childlike glow to Mr. Banks' eyes.

"It's like flying a jet plane," said Mr. Banks when asked about the new instrument. He had seen the organ completely assembled in the North Carolina factory and heard the music produced from its different divisions, however, he has not had the chance to play it.

Mr. Banks told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that he estimates the organ will be completely assembled by Easter Sunday, March 27. However, he hasn't figured out exactly which hymn he will play as the organ's first.

Some of the instrument's pipes, which range from 16 feet to the size of a pencil, come from the church's old organ, while St. Paul's purchased other pipes from the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield generously donated. Mr. Banks noted that the pipes would be mitered to fit the chapel's limited ceiling space.



CREATIVE CONSOLE...According to St. Paul's Minister of Music, Charles Banks, the new organ's console includes 200 draw knobs to activate the pipes.

## The Light Bulb Players: Natural Outlet of Talent

By SUSAN M. DOUGHERTY  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - Make believe. Pretend. Dress up.

It's what kids (of all ages) love to do. So it's no wonder that Light Bulb Players was born when Natalie Narotsky and Michael Mietlicki, two teen performers from the Westfield Summer Drama Productions, decided to put on their own show.

"I was in the car driving with my parents to Florida for vacation and talking to Natalie on the phone," said Michael, a Scotch Plains resident. The two students have become good friends through three years of performing together in Westfield productions.

"We were talking about a friend who was doing a show when Natalie just said, 'Why don't we put on a show?'" Michael explained. It was one of those great "aha" light bulb moments; thus the name as suggested by Natalie, who is a sophomore at Westfield High School (WHS), was born.

It is pretty daring to start one's own drama troupe of players, but according to Michael, who is a sophomore at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, it evolved naturally. "We both had worked with Valerie and Juan Pinada from New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) for three summers and

Brown since the whole troupe is made up of underage teens.

"I did make arrangements with the First Baptist Church for the use of their building - they have been very accommodating," she told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

Mrs. Pineda has asked her husband to do the lighting and sound for the upcoming show that is scheduled for Saturday, January 22, with a 3 p.m. matinee and a 7:30 p.m. show at the local church. Parents have volunteered to run a bake sale during the intermission of the performances to raise funds for more shows.

"We're thankful for them," Michael said of the Pineda duo. "They've put their confidence in us that we can put on a good show that we'll all be proud of." He mentioned that the sponsor adults haven't seen a rehearsal yet.

"Tonight (a week and a half before curtain) and this is the first time I'm seeing it," said Mrs. Pineda. "They built the sets, Kristen (Dizell) is on book and has served as choreographer and they are on their own. That's the way it should be in a student produced show," she explained.

Michael said they elicited the help of Kristen because they have worked with the WHS sophomore in past shows



"CURSE YOU, RED BARON"...Snoopy (Billy Geltzeller) yells during a rehearsal of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, which will be presented on Saturday, January 22, by a student-directed and produced group called The Lightbulb Players.

for the Little Opera too, so Natalie and I talked to Valerie about our idea and she and NJWA said they would assist us in every way they could."

And according to Mrs. Pineda, the female director of many shows, that assistance has been minimal yet educational in nature.

"I've talked on the phone with the kids trying to give them suggestions for motivating their peers and scheduling problems, but they have done the whole thing," she said.

"This is a learning opportunity for them to see how tough it is to cast a show, do the publicity, block scenes, do the sets, costumes and all," continued Mrs. Pineda. She was the one to secure the rights for the recent undertaking of the group, *You're a Good Man, Charlie*

and have faith in her ability to dance and move people. She is especially helpful while the co-directors - Natalie and Michael - are on stage as characters Lucy and Charlie Brown.

At the end of the rehearsal, Michael was dying to give feedback to the performers. "Can I give notes now?" he asked the others. Then he questioned if Valerie had any suggestions. "Don't be afraid to be bigger than how you are playing it now," she recommended with accolades and kudos for their work.

Choreographer Kristen added her constructive comments: "I'm going to want more facial expressions," she suggested.

What's next after *Charlie Brown*? Natalie said they are considering a num-

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### LOCAL STARS

#### Westfielder Included In Miniature Art Textiles Exhibition

WESTFIELD - Joan Dreyer of Westfield will include her artistry in the Second Miniature Art Textiles Exhibit at the Ocean County Artists' Guild, Ocean and Chestnut Streets in Island Heights, from Sunday, March 6,



"Finish Line II," by Joan Dreyer, disperse dye collage on synthetic machine stitching, mounted, 9 x 12.

to Tuesday, March 29. A reception will be held on March 6 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Dreyer is among a number of award-winning textile artists using fiber and mixed media. These artists live and work in many states of the United States and many other countries including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Belgium.

For more information, please visit [www.oceartists.org](http://www.oceartists.org). The exhibit will be online at [www.miniaturesocag.homestead.com](http://www.miniaturesocag.homestead.com).

Send A&E news to: [ae@goleader.com](mailto:ae@goleader.com)

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## Get Outta The House

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

The Diversity Art Gallery's featured exhibit, *Quilts & Fabrics II*, will remain on view each Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m., or by appointment, through Sunday, March 20. The gallery is located in the Union County Baptist Church, 4 Valley Road in Clark. To make an appointment, call (732) 574-1479.

Metuchen's Forum Theatre Company will present a special performance for one day only of *The People Garden* on Saturday, January 22, at 11 a.m. The musical, which has been on tour for seven years, is perfect for families with kids ages three to 12. Reservations are required and seats are \$10 for all. Call (732) 548-0582 or visit [www.kidsforum.com](http://www.kidsforum.com).

For the next few weekends, the Meadowlands Exposition Center will be home to the *Auto Expo 2005*. Be the first to see the new-model foreign and domestic vehicles coming to the tri-state area. Sports and radio personalities will make special appearances and sign autographs, and there will be plenty to keep the kids entertained. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids, and toddlers get in for free. For a \$2 adult discount coupon, visit [www.autoexpo.com/NJfcoupon.htm](http://www.autoexpo.com/NJfcoupon.htm).

It's *Burns Night* at the Great Summit Hotel. On Monday, January 24, celebrate the life and work of Scottish poet Robert Burns, with readings, Scottish music and dance, and dinner. Call (908) 273-3509 for times and tickets.

The Annual *Smart Talk Women's Lecture Series* is back at the State Theatre in New Brunswick through Thursday, May 5, for another season of intelligent entertainment and issue-driven discussions. Speakers will include Susan Sarandon, Whoopi Goldberg, and Elaine Strich. There is a question-and-answer session, and if you arrive early there are pre-lecture activities. Call (732) 246-7469 for tickets.

## Dolinich's Artwork Will Be Spotlighted At County Gallery

COUNTY - The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will present an exhibit by Christine Dolinich of Rahway in the gallery space at the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, located at 633 Pearl Street in Elizabeth.

"The solo exhibit of award-winning multi-media artist Christine Dolinich can be seen now through March 15 at the Pearl Street Gallery," said Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor. "We are honored to display her beautiful artwork."

Ms. Dolinich recently exhibited her works in Singapore at Orita Sinclair International Front Room Gallery in an exhibition entitled "Contemporary American Artists: Dolinich, Lokuta, Macarol." Other recent exhibitions include "Celebrating Excellence" - the Union County/Merck 2004 Juried Art Show; "Meditations on War," at the National Association of Women Artists Gallery in New York; and the national traveling exhibition "Mirrored Echoes."

The recent works of Christine Dolinich are evolved photographic images. At the core of each of these works is a straight photographic image, chemically altered to bind with other media. Combining monoprint



"Bare Bones of the Earth, No. 6" by Christine Dolinich.

and drawing techniques, the artist describes the medium as "contact collage." Dolinich's work balances on a tightrope between the technical and the intuitive. The works in the recent series, which were shown in Singapore and are included in the Elizabeth show, were revealed to her in a dream.

Ms. Dolinich has been the recipient of three HEART (History, Education and the Arts Reaching Thousands) Grants from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. These grants resulted in site-specific installations of her work, one of which is a Union County Arts Millennium Time Capsule, a mixed-media construction. This, her second time capsule, has been permanently installed in the Union County Administration Building.

Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Union County artists (whose works can be hung on a wall) interested in exhibiting in the gallery are welcome to apply.

For more information about the Pearl Street Gallery, please contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, 07202 or call (908) 558-2550. Relay users can dial 7-1-1 or e-mail [culturalinfo@ucnj.org](mailto:culturalinfo@ucnj.org).