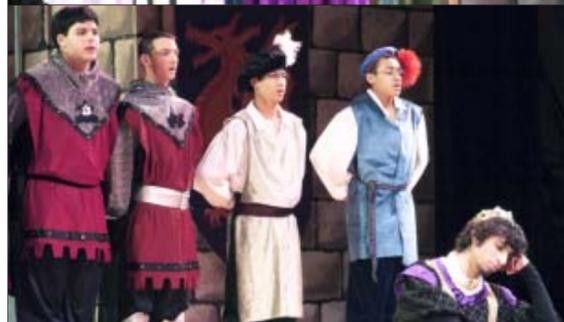


Arts & Entertainment



Susan M. Dougherty for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
PRINCESS OR NO PRINCESS?...At top, Princess Number 12 (Michelle DeSantis) gets quizzed by the Wizard (John DeLuca) while Lady Larken (Kristen Barry) awaits the outcome in Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Repertory Theatre's production of "Once Upon a Mattress."
GOOD PRINCE: Below, the Lords of the Court lament the fact that Martine Baruch, as Prince Dauntless, can't get a princess to pass the test.

WESTFIELD FOOD 4 THOUGHT

From Hot Dogs To Fillet

By JAYNE SALOMON
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Today is my son Michael's 21st birthday. Where does the time go? It seems like only yesterday he was a baby in the cradle, drinking his formula with not a care in the world. It also marks the beginning of a time in my life when recipe developing took the backburner to raising my babies who, of course, were not much interested in the delicacies of gourmet cooking.

Like all babies, Michael quickly graduated from the formula stage into the jarred mushy fruits, vegetables and, the worst of all, jarred pureed meat stage. He adamantly protested the latter, and who could blame him? He showed signs of good taste right from the start.

When he discovered hot dogs, it was all he would eat, and so I put my cooking skills to the task of inventing ways to prepare the hot dog.

His favorite recipe then:

Place 1 hot dog in the microwave
 Press 1 minute
 Remove
 Cut into pieces
 Eat with fingers

Grilling was out of the question, because what one-year-old would eat those black spots?

Twenty-one years later, although hot dogs are still popular with him, they have taken a backseat to foods like sushi and fillet mignon with garlic-infused mashed potatoes. Although his palate has matured from those days, he does have a great appreciation for a good down-home-cooked meal, and

Wardlaw Hosts Children's Author

AREA - The Wardlaw-Hartridge School will host a Children's Literature Fair with author Judi Barrett on Saturday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will take place in the all-purpose room at the school, located at 1295 Inman Avenue in Edison.

The first-ever Children's Literature Fair at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School will feature a reading a presentation by Ms. Barrett, author and illustrator of the memorable children's classic "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" and other works.

The book will come to the silver screen in two years and will be developed in a format similar to that of *Shrek*.

With colorful storyboards and her books as the backdrop, she will read several stories and share her wisdom and experience with the creative writing, illustrating and publishing process. A book selling and signing will follow. Lower School art teacher Sue Howard has developed a book-related art activity for the youngsters to complete after Ms. Barrett's presentation.

All will have the opportunity to interact with the children's author. Light refreshments, provided by the Wardlaw-Hartridge Parents' Association, will follow.

For more information, contact Michelle LePoidevin, director of communications, at (908) 754-1882, extension 126.

he is just a great guy. Here are some of his favorite recipes now:

OLD FASHION MEATLOAF

INGREDIENTS

2 onions, diced
 3 tablespoons olive oil
 2 pounds ground beef
 3 slices white bread, crusts removed
 1 egg
 1/4 cup ketchup
 Dash of pepper

PROCEDURE

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large frying pan, sauté the onions in the olive oil until browned. Let cool. In a large bowl, mash the ground beef with each slice of bread individually. Add the egg and continue to blend. Add the ketchup, pepper and fried onions and thoroughly blend. Form into a loaf shape and place into a baking dish. Cover with foil and bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees. Remove foil and bake for



Roasted Potatoes

an additional 10 to 15 minutes or until browned.

VEGGIN' OUT (Roast Potatoes)

INGREDIENTS

2-1/2 pounds red skin potatoes, sliced
 1/4 cup olive oil
 2 teaspoons salt
 2 teaspoons garlic powder
 2 packages Knorr's vegetable soup mix

PROCEDURE

Place potatoes in large roasting pan and pour on remaining ingredients. Toss until potatoes are coated. Roast at 375 degrees for approximately 1 1/2 hours or until potatoes are browned.



Sweet and Tangy Stringbeans

SWEET AND TANGY STRING BEANS

INGREDIENTS

3 cups (24 ounces) fresh string beans, cleaned
 3 tablespoons sesame oil
 2 tablespoons minced garlic
 1/3 cup dark corn syrup
 3 tablespoons soy sauce, more if needed
 Optional: 1/2 cup slivered almonds

PROCEDURE

In a large frying pan, stir-fry the string beans in the oil on a high flame for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. If using the almonds, add these, after string beans have cooked for about 5 minutes. Add the crushed garlic and continue stirring for another 1 to 2 minutes or until browned. Add the corn syrup and soy sauce and stir thoroughly making sure to coat all the beans.

Yield: 6 servings

Westfield Symphony Orchestra Debuts Tone Poem at High School

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

WESTFIELD — "East meets West...meets North" was the theme applied to the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) concert held on March 17 in the auditorium at Westfield High School (WHS). The change from the usual venue of the First Presbyterian Church resulted in a welcome improvement in the orchestra's clarity and balance.

Music Director David Wroe conducted Finlandia by Jean Sibelius, the world premiere of *Silk Clay* by composer-in-residence Zhou Long and Symphony No. 4 in E minor by Brahms. James Fuerst stepped in to lead the WSO in the overture to *The Abduction from the Seraglio* by Mozart. In addition to being an active teacher, conductor, and vocalist, Mr. Fuerst is the WSO's assistant conductor and librarian.

Mr. Long's program notes placed the performance of *Finlandia* in historical context. The composition served as a potent symbol against oppressive Russian rule at the end of the 19th century.

The overall emotional shape moves from tense and foreboding to violent to hymn-like, and it ends in triumph. It is a popular work for the simple reason that it grabs the listener with its dire brass choir opening and does not let go until the final full orchestra chord has sounded. Mr. Wroe led the orchestra in a strong rendering, although I felt that the hymn-like theme could have used a little more breathing space. The music cannot help but inspire an audience, and it evidently did.

Silk Clay featured two soloists, cellist Eliot Bailen and Chinese instrument specialist Renyang Gao, who performed on the xun, the xiao and the bandi. Mr. Long's program notes revealed that the rounded xun was made from clay with finger holes to vary the pitch. The xiao was a vertical (played like a recorder) bamboo flute about three feet long, and the bandi was a bamboo transverse flute with a range closer to that of a piccolo.

The sounds of the xun and the xiao, which bore the bulk of the solo work, were round and soothing to the ear. The bandi, because of its much higher pitch, could be a bit piercing, but less so than a piccolo.

Mr. Long's notes stated that the piece began softly with the xun, later employing the xiao in the middle section in a duet with the solo cello, and using the bandi in the heavier, more climactic *tutti* segment. The final section was in a gentler mood similar to the opening.

Throughout the piece, Mr. Long expanded the orchestra's palette using a variety of imaginative devices to create sounds of different character. Strings would play soft up and down glissandos with high-pitched harmonics to achieve a mysterious air. Use of various gongs, tam tam, bongos, congas, chimes, wood blocks and other percussion instruments lent Oriental spice to the tone poem.

COURT FROM 26 MATTRESS

monic blend of the voices of Vangelis Dimopoulos and Andre Smith.

Presenting a delightful dance number, "Very Soft Shoes," Jester Andre Smith is accompanied by The Petite Three, consisting of Julia Joseph, Kayla McAlindin and Elise Whitehouse.

The Broom Squire, David Shapiro, brings down the house every time he appears on stage to do his shtick.

Other teen standouts include the evil Wizard (John DeLuca), the aptly named The Lady of Good Looks (Sarah Marable), who proves she can dance like a professional, The Nightingale (Alison Baier) and The Lady of Flirtation (Nychole Hunt), who earns every bit of that moniker for her flamboyant stage presence.

The show is a lighthearted romp, yet Rep Theatre proffers its vocal depth when the ensemble sings "Quiet" a capella.

Executing Gisa DiLorio's energetic choreography are students of all ages and grades. Thirty or more teens dance in the "Spanish Panic" that showcases a variety of dance styles.

Choreographer DiLorio and Director Mary Lynn Dobson make great use of the levels of the stage that is covered with the impressive castle sets of John DeLuca.

Under the baton of Musical Director John Brzozowski and Orchestra Director Durand Thomas, the music—vocal and instrumental—is first rate.

Mention must be made of the colorful, authentic-looking costumes assembled by costumers Joanne Sprague and Gertie Rowe and their committee. The vivid gem-toned outfits at the show's end are especially striking.

This springy *Mattress* runs tonight, tomorrow and Saturday night, March 22, 23 and 24. Take a bounce on it.

Roosevelt Actors Know That Grease is the Word

WESTFIELD—Leather jackets and poodle skirts are back in fashion, as *Grease* comes to Westfield. Opening night of Roosevelt Intermediate School's stage production of the musical comedy is scheduled for tomorrow, with productions also on March 24 and 25.

Grease, the Broadway musical, premiered in 1972. Based on the high-school subculture of 1950s America, it takes its name from the working-class greasers of the era. The musical, set in fictional Rydell High in Chicago, includes themes of love, friendship and rebellion.

While the cast and crew of sixth, seventh and eighth graders have rehearsed since January, they have had fun perfecting their acting, singing and dancing.

The cast for this production is the largest the Roosevelt drama department has ever had for a single play, topping out at 64 cast members.

Main characters Danny Zuko, leader of the T-Birds, and Sandy, new girl in town, will be played by eighth-graders Chris Morrissey and Ellie Tanji.

In fact, the show is packed with memorable characters, such as Danny's cool buddy, Kenickie (eighth-grader Chris Mench) and other T-Birds sidekicks, Doody (seventh-grader Tyler Varian), Roger (eighth-grader Kyle Machecknie) and Sonny (eighth-grader Jordan Siegel).

The girls who "rule the school," the self-named "Pink Ladies," are led by tough-talking Rizzo (eighth-grader Kristina Perez), and include man-magnet Marty (eighth-grader George Gleason), cheerful Jan (seventh-grader Samantha Furst) and beauty-school drop out Frenchy (seventh-grader Sarah Ramire).

The cast is rounded out by a group of colorful characters, including radio host Vince Fontaine (seventh-grader Brian Pollack), the ethereal Teen Angel (seventh-grader Tyler Varian), Miss Lynch (seventh-grader Tori Bonsall), cheerleading captain Patty Simcox (seventh-grader Cali Mazarra), rockin' Johnny Casino (sixth-grader Joel Seltzer), dancing rival Cha Cha (eighth-grader Kayla Weisinger) and lovable but nerdy Eugene (eighth-grader Adam Ziering).

This middle-school production of the Tony nominee for Best Musical, includes such memorable songs as "Grease Lightening," "Beauty School Drop Out," "Hand Jive" and "Summer Nights," along with the ever-popular "We Go Together."

The Roosevelt School production of *Grease* will run at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. All performances will be held at Roosevelt School on Clark Street. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. For more information, contact Roosevelt School at (908) 789-4560.



THEY GO TOGETHER...The cast of Roosevelt Intermediate School's production of *Grease* prepares for their upcoming performances this weekend.

Even with the aid of a microphone, the xun and the xiao had a limited dynamic range. The microphone was positioned at the height of Ms. Gao's shoulders, so the xun was clearly audible. The xiao, whose end was a good two and one-half feet below the microphone, was not always as successful in its projection.

These two Eastern instruments were used principally in sections with varying light orchestral textures behind them. The louder, more climactic passages in the tone poem featured mostly the Western instruments, with the bandi the lone Eastern instrument to be heard in the frenzy.

In my opinion, the limitations of the Eastern instruments served to inhibit somewhat the range and frequency of dynamism in the piece, but that may have been the composer's precise intention. The gentle sounds of the xun and the xiao were generally beautiful and almost reverential.

After having heard two of Mr. Long's pieces in as many concerts, one cannot help but conclude that this composer is a supremely gifted, dedicated artist with a rich imagination enhanced by his Eastern roots and the breadth of his experience. His music is worthy of repeated and careful listening. The audience wholeheartedly approved of his effort on this particular evening.

WCP's The Lion in Winter Concludes on March 23, 24

WESTFIELD - Westfield Community Players (WCP) production of James Goldman's drama *The Lion in Winter* has its final performances on March 23 and 24 in the theater at 1000 North Avenue West in Westfield, with all reserved seat tickets at \$15.

Call the box office at (908) 232-1221 for further details. Note that all non-member tickets must be pre-paid to secure a reservation.

Directed by Linda Correll and assisted by producer Letty Hudak and stage manager Lynn Lampariello, this is an evening of finely tuned theater. The drama/comedy is set Chinon, France, where this dysfunctional Brit-

Mr. Fuerst's WSO debut conducting the Mozart overture demonstrated that he was quite comfortable on the podium. He conveyed the bright character of the opening section and appropriately slowed the tempo in the contrasting part that followed. The rendition was energetic and enjoyable.

After the intermission, Mr. Wroe led the orchestra in Brahms' final symphony with a towering and inspired performance. Conducting without score, Mr. Wroe gave the piece the breadth and depth that it warranted, commanding the most committed playing he could from his players. The pristine acoustics in the auditorium allowed him to elicit fine details and make adjustments when necessary.

The woodwinds and brass, usually overpowering, performed with much more suitable volume, and their sound blended well with the strings. The strings themselves sounded infinitely purer and more poignant. Brahms and Mr. Wroe both demanded a great deal from them, and they delivered.

As the piece ended, a rapt audience, stirred by the dramatic reading of Symphony No. 4, rewarded the WSO with vigorous and extended applause. The majority of attendees rose to their feet to convey their unqualified satisfaction for a full and rousing evening of great music.

ish royal family shares Christmas and aspirations of gaining the throne and the British Empire.

King Henry I of England, Eleanor of Aquitaine and their three sons, Richard, Geoffrey and John, battle and scheme in this rich stew of deceit, rivalry and family ties.

Art Hickey is King Henry of England, who matches wits with Sally O'Neil as Queen Eleanor, while Erik Hall as King Phillip of France and Helena Sroczyński as Princess Alais look on. Chris Guild is the eldest son Richard the Lionhearted, who is opposed by Ryan Curtis as Geoffrey and Ryan Correll as the youngest son, Prince John.

Registration Now Open For SP-F Summer Workshops

SCOTCH PLAINS - Registrations are now open for the 25th season of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Creative Summer Workshops (CSW), which are scheduled to run this year from Monday, June 25, through Friday, July 27.

The workshops, sponsored by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education for children entering kindergarten through to grade 12, will feature 43 enrichment programs, including an instrumental music school.

The Instrumental Music School will offer group lessons and participation in a band session daily for students in grades 4 to 8. An evening performance is scheduled for Thursday, July 26, at Park Middle School and will be open to the public.

For students in grades 1 through 8, courses such as arts and crafts, ceramics, acrobatics, drawing and sketching, forensics, magic and sudoku will be offered.

In addition, reinforcement classes for Grades 1 to 4 will be available, and a "Kindergarten Express" program is open to children who will



MUSIC TO THEIR EARS...Shown, left to right, are students Stephen Ruggieri (baritone horn, band), Laura Bruce (alto, tenor and baritone saxophone, band), Benjamin Parisi (traps, orchestra), Alissa Ricci (bass clarinet, band, for the second consecutive year), Christopher Cerchio (trumpet, band, also for the second consecutive year), and Christina Bobyack (French horn, band). Park instrumental music teacher Jon Benicvenga also reported that Laura scored third out of 46 alto saxophone players who auditioned and Christopher placed fourth among 66 trumpeters. The Park musicians performed in concert with the Region Band and Orchestra on March 18 at Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School.

Park School Celebrates Musician Achievements

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Music Department at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains is marking "Music In Our Schools" month during March and also celebrating the accomplishments of several talented Park musicians who have been selected as members of the New Jersey Central Region II Band and Orchestra.

The groups are made up of outstanding musicians from Monmouth, Middlesex, Union, Mercer, Somerset and Hunterdon Counties.

start school in September. "Drivers Theory and Training" is being offered for high-school students who have the option of taking one or both of the classroom and "behind the wheel" sections.

All registrations for the 2007 CSW, which are by mail only, are on a first-come, first served basis and must be received by June 15.

To receive a booklet of this year's workshop offerings, call the CSW's Office at (908) 232-6161, ext. 43, Monday through Friday, or check the district website at spfk12.org. CSW program booklets are also available at area schools and libraries.

Book Store Hosts 'Moments' Author

WESTFIELD - The Town Book Store in Westfield will host Ebony Dawn, author of "Moments," on April 7 from 2 to 4 p.m.

"Moments," written by the local author, is a collection of short stories in the arena of human emotion. Her stories explore the human predicament with a little humor, drama and a lot of verve.

The public can come and meet Ms. Dawn at The Town Book Store, located at 270 East Broad Street in Westfield (at the corner of East Broad and Elmer Streets).

Anyone unable to attend this event can reserve an autographed copy by calling The Town Book Store at (908) 233-3535.

Havens to Perform At GW's Crossroads

GARWOOD - Woodstock legend Richie Havens will perform live at the Crossroads in Garwood on Sunday, March 25, at 6 p.m.

With more than 25 albums released, he told *The Denver Post*, "I really sing songs that move me. I'm not in show business; I'm in the communications business. That's what it's about for me."

Havens first emerged from New York City's Greenwich Village folk scene in the early 60s, and, in 1969, inspired an audience of more than half a million with his three-hour opening performance at Woodstock.

Today, this Brooklyn Native celebrates the reissue of two album classics ("Stonehenge" and "Wishing Well") by Sony RED.

Havens recently released his 26th album, "Grace of the Sun" on his own Stormy Forest record label.

His concerts include music from "Grace of the Sun" as well as a broad selection of songs from his extensive repertoire.

The public can purchase tickets at xroads.com or by contacting (908) 518-0323.

See it all on the web in color...
www.goleader.com