

Symphony acclaimed under Dunlap

(Part III)

The man who launched the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, and who is credited with its early success, decided in 1951 that it was time to pick up stakes and move on.

Paul Wagner, whose friend, Helmer Nelson, was no longer superintendent of schools, accepted an offer of a high school position in Pekin, Ill. He is now

reported to be out of music and in an administrative position in Montclair, N.J.

Wagner had a friend at the University of Michigan whom he recommended as his successor to conduct the orchestra. He brought his friend, Wayne Dunlap, to Plymouth to meet members of the group. Agreement was reached and Dunlap became the conductor of the Plymouth Symphony. He was an excellent choice.

During his 24 years with the orchestra, Dunlap developed the group into one of the finest community orchestras in the state and perhaps in the nation. His enthusiasm, skill as a musician and conductor, and his personal charm won him ready acceptance by the community.

Dunlap made his home in Plymouth until 1971. He now lives in Grand Rapids. He is in charge of the music department at the College of Arts and Sciences, Grand Valley State College, in Allendale.



A NATIVE OF Cameron, Mo., Wayne Dunlap earned his BA degree at Texas Christian University in 1939, and his master's of music at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, in 1941.

During World War II, he directed the U.S. Army Air Force Band in Texas and New York, and later taught at Army University centers in France and England. After his discharge, he conducted the University Orchestra and the Opera Workshop at the University of Michigan from 1946 to 1953.

Dunlap, a student of Pierre Monteaux, said he developed a feeling for the French style from the celebrated conductor.

In 1954-55, Dunlap received a Fulbright award to study at the Academy of Music in Vienna.

In the 1950s and early '60s, Dunlap conducted orchestras in other communities besides Plymouth. These include orchestras in Grosse Pointe, Muskegon, Saginaw, South Oakland and the Detroit Ballet Theatre. He has been a guest conductor of many other orchestras including the Detroit Symphony. He is a past president of the Michigan Civic Orchestra Association.

IN 1961, Dunlap became Plymouth High School's supervisor of music and director of the community chorus.

Later he became director of fine arts at Schoolcraft Community College until he moved to Grand Rapids. He commutes to Plymouth regularly

for Symphony rehearsals and concerts.

Since Dunlap became its conductor almost a quarter of a century ago, the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra has received wide critical acclaim. Even before he joined it, however, the orchestra had been noticed for the excellence of its programs.

As early as December 26, 1948, the "Detroit News," in a two-page rotogravure picture-story, wrote: "Although the orchestra has been playing 'good' music since its inception, it attained its measure as a symphony orchestra by playing its first complete symphony, Beethoven's Eighth, as the concluding selection on the 1947-48 program."

SINCE THOSE early days, the Symphony has presented many excellent programs and brought to Plymouth many well-known artists.

During the first decades of the orchestra, soloists included Roma Riddell, Evelyn Woods, Catherine Fischer, Charles Fisher, Emily Mutter Austin, Nathalie Dale, William Dopman, Nelson Hauenstein, Norma Heyde, Joanne Hulce, Josef Lazaroff, Douglas Marsh, Richard Miller, Mischa Mischakoff, and Millard Taylor.

Composers who have been commissioned to write works for the Symphony include Grant Beglarian, Will Gay Bottje, Lee Eitzen, Robert W. Jones, Bruce Wise and Wynn York.

During the 1955-56 season, the Orchestra introduced Opera to Plymouth with a performance of "Hansel and Gretel." The NBC Opera Company, the Ann Arbor Ballet Company, the Piccolo Opera Company, and the Severo Ballet Company have appeared here under the sponsorship of the Plymouth Symphony. The NBC company performed "Amahl and the Night Visitors" in Plymouth for the 1959 Christmas Season performance.

WELL-KNOWN members of the Or-

chestra include, or have included:

Evelyn Woods, pianist and soloist; Josef Lazaroff, concertmaster and soloist, who played with symphony orchestras in Toledo, New York, Cleveland and Tampa; Emily Mutter Austin, concertmaster and soloist, and the first woman to become a member of the Detroit Symphony; and the late Nelson Hauenstein, principal flutist and soloist, who was a member of the University of Michigan faculty.

Others include John Mohler, clarinetist and also a member of the U. of M. faculty. Another member of the U.-M. faculty, Louis Stout, who plays the horn in the Plymouth Symphony, was formerly a member of the Chicago and Kansas City symphonies.

Dr. Merrile Wilson, formerly of the New York Philharmonic, and Charlene Wilson and Marilyn Martin are also well-known members of the Plymouth group.

(Part IV, will conclude the story of the Plymouth Symphony).

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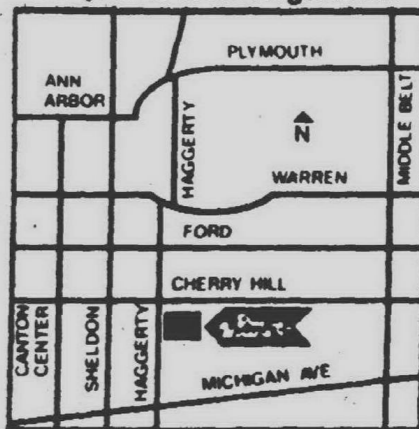
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Orchestra to hold annual pop concert

Musical selections from "show biz" will highlight the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra's annual pop concert, scheduled for Saturday, May 10, at 9 p.m. in the Westland Center Concourse.

Directed by Wayne Dunlap, the orchestra will perform selections from: Leonard Bernstein's "Candide;" Victor Herbert's "Naughty Marietta;" Verdi's "The Anvil Chorus" from "Il Trovatore;" television's "The Victory at Sea;" music from the movie "Camelot;" "The Entertainer" from the movie "The Sting;" and the finale from Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony. A sing-along will conclude the concert.

Baritone Dale Schriemer will be the soloist for the evening. A graduate of Michigan State University, Schriemer has performed several leading roles with the Opera Association of Western Michigan.

Tickets, priced at \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students, include refreshments. Tickets are available at the

Bands earn high ratings

PLYMOUTH—Central Middle School's Intermediate and Advanced Bands received high ratings at the State Band and Orchestra Festival, recently held at Columbia Central High School in Brooklyn, Mich.

The Intermediate Band received a top division I rating, while the Advanced Band earned a red ribbon division II rating.

The bands earned the honor of attending the state festival by winning straight one ratings at the district festival in March.

Directed by Michael Paul DiCuirci, 120 students participated in the state festival.

Bed 'N Stead in the Forest Place Mall in downtown Plymouth.

Members of the Allegro group of the Plymouth Symphony League are planning the evening under the chairmanship of Marge O'Day. Ticket and program chairpersons are Mary Weed and Sarah Chance. Doris Chatterley and Betty Laird are handling decorations.

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