

# ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

## McQuaid's visiting music teacher tunes up the classics

By J. Peter Huggins

McQuaid Jesuit High School

As I rolled into McQuaid one spring morning not too long ago, I breathed the mood of the ever-familiar "Oh well, another Monday." I casually walked into school and up the stairs to the first floor. I glanced at the bulletin board, checking out the daily schedule. "What's this?" I thought as I read the board, "an assembly first period?" I could not remember off-hand whether or not there was an assembly for the spring sports teams or something of that nature.

As I continued on to my locker, I heard several friends talking about the assembly. Upon inquiry, I found that we had a violin recital by the school music teacher. I nodded a vague answer to my friends and made my way down the hall to my locker. All through homeroom I pondered about what the supposed violin recital would be like.

As we were all finally seated and quieted down in the gym, we were treated to a 45-minute recital of exceedingly fine violin music. It was very impressive.

Mr. Sturm, McQuaid's music teacher, started out with a work by Sarasate entitled, "Zigeunerweisen." He then moved on to a piece by Mozart, "The Concerto in G Major, First Movement." From there, we were treated to a J.S. Bach work entitled "Unaccompanied Partita in D Minor, First and Second Movements." Finishing up the recital was a work by Kroll called "Banjo and Fiddle."

Between each piece, Sturm would give a short explanation of the piece and what it was about and/or what was special about the particular work. All throughout the recital Sturm was accompanied by David Chalmers of the Eastman School of Music.



Jonathan Sturm takes a break from practicing to pose for a photograph.

Sturm, a native of Virginia Beach, Va., has been interested in music for much of his life, starting to play the violin at age seven. Sturm's church pastor encouraged him to take up the violin, and Sturm has subsequently been playing for the last 18 years.

Sturm received Oberlin College in Ohio where he received his bachelor's degree. He continued on to the Eastman School of Music where he earned two master's degrees; one in violin performance and one in musicology. While at Oberlin, Sturm taught courses in ear training and in music history. These were supplementary to the normal set of course requirements.

In practicing for violin, Sturm finds that it usually takes three to five hours of serious practice each day. I learned many new facts

about the violin and its possibilities in talking with Mr. Sturm. It is a career that is constantly changing and modifying to the rapidly changing patterns of the world.

An example Sturm cited was that you could practice a piece one way and then turn around and practice it a totally different way. In its changeability, violin playing is also a very erratic career. As Sturm said, "It can have great pinnacles of ecstasy and also great pits of depression."

This is Sturm's first year at McQuaid, and as the resident music teacher, he has worked to build a strong foundation for the music department as a whole. Obtaining physical improvements as well as material for future music teachers are some of his accomplishments.

In teaching the course, Sturm has tried to present a new way of thinking about music and

of thinking in general. He has tried to teach students how to learn and to think in a much more precise and calculated manner.

Sturm, in presenting the course, has also made a great effort to portray classical music in a more fascinating way. Sturm shows how classical music has an excitement all of its own — an excitement that is almost completely opposite to the excitement of pop music. He shows how the music has tension, beauty and power. He attempted, therefore, to show classical music in a new light as opposed to the familiar idea of soothing, almost boring music, as many people perceive classical music to be.

Unfortunately, Sturm will not return to McQuaid next year. Instead, he will move to Indiana University, to work on his doctorate. This is a very rigorous program which consists of eight recitals and two minors, which will probably be music history and philosophy. The whole program takes three to five years to complete.

As for future goals beyond his doctorate work, Sturm is interested in performing as a soloist with orchestral accompaniment, as well as performing recitals. Sturm is also very interested in teaching, particularly violin as music history. He hopes to purchase a new violin in the near future and is prepared to pay up to \$100,000 for a fine violin. (Yes, that's as in 5 zeros.)

For you trivia buffs, Sturm also worked last year as a radio announcer for WXXI on weekends.

Sturm has found that teaching at McQuaid has been a very beneficial experience for him. It has helped him to develop in many different ways, as well as to give him a sense of direction as to what he wants to do.

### Local student chosen for Olympiad program

Nazareth Academy senior Debbie Carmen has been selected by the Rochester section of the American Chemical Society as a candidate for the Chemistry Olympiad Program. Based on her Chemistry scores, special laboratory experience, high SAT scores and performance on the Chemistry Achievement Test, Carmen was chosen to represent the six-county area in the national competition.

Should she qualify for the National program, Carmen will attend a study camp at the

Air Force Academy in Colorado. Four students from this program will be selected to represent the United States in the International Chemistry Olympics.

Carmen has won both a National Merit Scholarship and Regents Scholarship. She plans to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the fall. She lives with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Carmen, on Union Street in Spencerport.

### High School seniors set performances at Eastman

Five musicians who are candidates for graduation with honors from the Eastman School of Music's Preparatory Department will perform solo recitals at Eastman in May.

Free and open to the public, all recitals will begin at 8 p.m. in Kilbourn Hall, 26 Gibbs St., Rochester.

The performers are bassoonist Lisa Seischab, Saturday, May 17; violinist Daniel Panner, Wednesday, May 21; flutist Elizabeth Larson, Friday, May 23; cellist Christine Thomas, Wednesday, May 28; and pianist Ann Meng, Saturday, May 31.

All performers are area high school seniors: Seischab at Our Lady of Mercy High School; Panner at Brighton High School; Larson at Fairport High School; Thomas at Penfield High School; and Meng at Henrietta Roth High School.

The Preparatory Department, part of the Eastman School's Community Education Division, offers instruction in a variety of musical instruments, as well as classes in

music theory, history and performance. To graduate from the Department, students must complete several years of academic classwork and attain a high level of competence in their primary instrument.

### Social Ministry program at Cohocton Parish

A three-part program, entitled, "Going Public: American Catholicism Faces Issues of the 80s" will be presented May 14, 21 and 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the St. Pius parish hall in Cohocton.

Sponsored by the Steuben County Social Ministry Committee and the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry of the Diocese of Rochester, the presentation will be made by Jim Lund, education specialist for the Division of Social Ministry.

To register, call the St. Pius office at (716) 384-5500 or 734-9784 for more information.

### Mercy scholarships awarded

Our Lady of Mercy High School has awarded 13 eighth graders academic scholarships. The selections were based on a scholarship test, the Mercy High Placement Exam, and junior high grades and recommendations.

The winners of the Regina K. Kennedy Scholarship of \$600 per year for four years is Kara Penna of St. John the Evangelist School, Greece. Also receiving \$600 per year for four years as part of the William J. Stolze Scholarships were Charlene Leahy of St. Louis School, and Jessica Reynolds of Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School.

Stephanie Foley of Holy Trinity School, and Christine Rock of Honeoye Central School each won \$400 per year for four years as part of the Stolze Scholarships.

In addition, Mercy awarded five school scholarships of \$400 per year for four years to Allison Adin of St. Joseph School, Penfield, Melissa Battaglini, Lisa Dunn and Karen McMullen, all of Wheatland-Chili Central School, and Jennifer Ianacone of Our Lady of Lourdes School.


Loan Chu of St. Anne School won the Harry C. Walsh Scholarship of \$200 per year for each of two years, and Alumnae Scholarships for the same amount and time were awarded to Jennifer Heagney of St. Joseph School, Penfield, daughter of Susan Van-Bell, who graduated from Mercy in 1967; and Mary Kennedy of Monroe Junior-Senior High School, daughter of Roberta Conway, class of 1961.

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## HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 10 correct entries identifying **Jackson Browne** as the singer/songwriter who released Hold Out & The Pretender albums

The winner was **Kathy Ryan** of Auburn.



## MUSIC TRIVIA

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**This weeks question:**  
OK You Beatles Fans...What was Ringo Star's first solo hit single?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules:**  
Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.  
If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.  
All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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