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Footlights

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New Sacred Music Works

Cantor Gerald Cohen of Shaarei Tikvah Congregation in Scarsdale, a composer of both religious and nonreligious music, is working on a new series of commissions along with the piece he is writing as a recent winner of the Westchester Prize for New Works. Cantor Cohen was one of two composers selected for the New York City start of Faith Partners, a nationwide program sponsored by the American Composers Forum that matches composers with religious institutions in an effort to broaden and enliven the sacred music repertory.

Cantor Cohen and the composer Charles Griffin are each writing one piece for each of three Manhattan institutions: St. Bartholomew's Church, St. Ignatius-Loyola and Temple Emanu-El; both composers are also writing a piece that the three institutions will share. "It's been fascinating to meet with the music directors and clergy at these institutions," Cantor Cohen said. "Some are quite open to using all sorts of interesting texts that are not officially liturgical."

One suggestion led Cantor Cohen to Wordsworth's ode "Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood," the one that includes the phrase "trailing clouds of glory do we come from God who is our home." Cantor Cohen named the piece for the ode's first line, "Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting," and wrote it for St. Bartholomew's, an Episcopal church.

The premieres of the works in each institution are scheduled for November through April, with a concert of all the works by both composers planned for May. Information: (212) 873-5315.

Flower Arranging 101

There's color, there's form, and, when it comes to flower arranging, there's also occasion. For example, you don't want to use a tall arrangement at a dinner party because it will block people's view of one another, said **Betsey Ryder**, who sells organic vegetables and flowers from her family's 120-acre farm at the Union Square greenmarket in Manhattan. Ms. Ryder will talk about such practical dynamics as well as the more abstract principles of flower arranging in her workshop at 2 p.m. today at the 1795 Ryder Farm in Brewster, which has been in her family for more than 200 years. The Southeast Museum, of which Ms. Ryder is president, is sponsoring the event.

Besides making flower arrangements to take home, participants will tour the gardens, including a new nuptial garden Ms. Ryder is growing. "It's a very classic knotted herb bed garden, with designs for love, peace, men, women, hugs, kisses, the sun, stars and the moon," she said.

The fee for the workshop and tour is \$15.

The number for reservations or other information is (845) 279-7500.

Another Step Toward Museum

A group of professional women turned homemakers think Westchester needs a new children's museum. The group So far the group has raised \$100,000 at a benefit last spring; interested the county Legislature in designating the Rye Playland Bathhouses as a possible site; and secured a \$10,000 grant from the State Senate through Senator Suzi Oppenheimer for a newsletter.

"Right now we're a museum without walls," said Corinne Zola, a spokeswoman for the group. She described the museum as ""as a place where children can explore the artistic and literary history, as well as the environment, of Westchester. There is no institution just for children in the county."

The group's first major program will be a library tour that will connect educational materials about friendship with a lithograph of an oil painting by Alvin Clayton of New Rochelle. Mr. Clayton donated the painting, called "Circle of Friends," to the museum.

The lithograph will be on view at the White Plains Library for four weeks beginning Sept. 14, when at 2 p.m. there will be a storytelling and crafts event for children ages 4 through 10. A reading list developed by museum board members in connection with county librarians will also be available. Information: (914) 674-1815. ROBERTA HERSHENSON

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