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NEWS BRIEFS

news briefs

Plymouth pianist to perform holiday music

Plymouth pianist Dan Beckett has released a self-published CD, *Simply Christmas*, and will be performing music from it in local concert appearances.

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼ Beckett will perform live at CD release celebrations hosted by Evola Music Centers in Canton (6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7) and Shelby Township (6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13). The CD will be available for purchase at live events throughout December, as well as from on-line retailers such as Snocap, iTunes, Napster, and Amazon.

"Dan's fresh blend of classical, jazz, and pop-rock is sure to appeal to anyone who

loves piano music," said Paul Cusamano, general manager for Evola's Canton location. "We are excited about sharing Dan's music with the local community,"

Simply Christmas follows Beckett's self-published debut entitled *Simplicity*, the first in a planned series of recordings featuring his original compositions for acoustic piano.

Symphony comes home

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, under award-winning music director and conductor Nan Washburn, present its first holiday concert - "Home for the Holidays" 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, at the Penn Theatre.

Concert goers can join the PSO for a new holiday tradition by coming home to downtown Plymouth for a festive yuletide concert. The Livonia Youth Choir will join the Plymouth Symphony in performing holiday favorites including *White Christmas*, *Winter Wonderland*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, *The Christmas Song*, and Leroy Anderson's much-loved *Sleigh Ride*. Rounding out this special wintry musical feast will be a classic, old-time, Christmas Carol sing-along.

The concert is sponsored by Community Financial, with additional support from Gem Asset Management, the Plymouth Symphony League, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National

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Washburn

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Beckett

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Endowment for the Arts, and through the donations of patrons.

Tickets for this concert are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for children. Groups of 10 or more receive a 10-percent discount. Tickets for PSO performances may be purchased by contacting the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society office by phone at (734) 451.2112, by visiting the secure on-line box office at www.plymouthsymphony.org or in person at 470 Forest, Suite 18, Plymouth.

Webkinz winner

Robert Lake of Plymouth bought a ticket for the Plymouth Rotary A.M.'s raffle of 35 Webkinz dolls back in June.

Nearly six months later, it paid off.

Lake's ticket was chosen last week by Santa Claus when he arrived for his annual trip to Plymouth. Webkinz are the plush pet that each come with a secret code and are currently one of the hottest toys on the market.

Lake bought his ticket while attending a fund-raiser for the Plymouth Kiwanis Club's "Kids Against Hunger" campaign.

"We are going to keep two of the Webkinz," Lake said. "We will donate the other 33 to Tanger school. My wife worked for the Head Start program for 20 years, so this was an easy decision."

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to benefit Tanger School and other Plymouth Rotary A.M. projects.

Plymouth Rotary A.M. President Beth Stewart was very happy about the peculiar course of events.

"It is just so gratifying to see how committed our residents are to our community," she said. "We could not have scripted a better outcome for this fund-raiser and Tanger school."

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