

Christmas pageant visits area for 39th consecutive year

A cast of 300 will present many of the most familiar songs of the holiday season during a series of concerts that feature the pageantry, costuming and special effects reminiscent of a Broadway production.

“Christmasfantastic” will visit eight Michigan and Ohio cities in November to launch the local holiday season.

Produced and directed by internationally recognized musical creator, Thurlow Spurr, the concert will feature The CMI Orchestra, The New CMI Dance Company, The Thurlow Spurr Singers, The Four Divas, The Kids, as well as Rick Everitt & The CMI Brass and The Brotherhood.

Additional soloists and musicians from the Michigan-Ohio area also will appear during the two-and-one-half-hour concert.

“Christmasfantastic” has been a tradition for area concertgoers for more than three decades with sold-out performances in each venue. A highlight of each show is audience participation and surprise gifts.

This year’s series includes six matinee and three evening performances.

“It’s a musical explosion of sight and sound,” said Spurr, “Each year something unexpected is added that will thrill the audience.”

Spurr chose the “Christmasfantastic” theme as a way to celebrate the true meaning of the holiday season.

“The sound, the visuals and our creative lighting combine to communicate the message of this special time of the year,” he said. “We invite our faithful concert patrons to come again and to bring their friends.”

The choir and the musicians have

videotaped two made-for-television specials entitled “Christmas... All Year Long” and “Christmas... A Timeless Treasure.” They will be aired in major markets this season.

The group has recorded three CDs which will be available at the November concerts and on CMI Web site www.cmichoir.org.

The choir has performed in Russia and

Israel and has participated in a made-for-TV patriotic special from the Waikiki Band Shell in Hawaii which featured Larnelle Harris.

“This dazzling one-of-a-kind concert is a must-see for all who love the Christmas season,” said Spurr.

Area performances include the following:

- Dearborn – Nov. 4, Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Grand Rapids – Nov. 5, Kentwood Fine Arts Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.
- Midland – Nov. 6, Midland Center for the Performing Arts, 2:30 p.m.
- Detroit Area – Nov. 12, Macomb Performing Arts Center, 2:30 p.m.
- Novi – Nov. 13, Novi High School Fuerst Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.
- Toledo – Nov. 18, Stranahan Theatre at the Masonic, 7:30 p.m.
- Flint – Nov. 19, The Whiting Auditorium, 2:30 and 7:00 p.m.
- Lansing – Nov. 20, Holt Performing Arts Complex, 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$32 for maestro circle seating, \$24 for premium seating and \$22 for reserved seating. Special pricing is available for organized groups of 20 or more.

To order tickets call 800.993.SING (7464) or order online at www.cmichoir.org.

