



# Royal Page

Royal Music Center ♦ SeaCourt Pavilion ♦ 635 Bay Avenue ♦ Toms River, N.J. 08753 ♦ (908) 240-2332

## One down, more concerts scheduled this year

By **JEFF MAZZA**

Whoever sang, "Ain't No Cure for the Summertime Blues" wasn't spending his summer here at **ROYAL MUSIC CENTER**.

We've almost reached the halfway point in this Summer of '94 and this summer is -- well, it's hot! It's hot both in temperature readings and the activity level at the store.



**JEFF MAZZA**

I've been in touch with Technics, the keyboard people, in preparation for **ROYAL MUSIC**'s second major concert. We're narrowing the time frame to October-- time, place and artist to be announced shortly.

We'll keep you informed.

On Wednesday, July 13, **ROYAL MUSIC** hosted its first major concert. Almost 300 people flocked to the Toms River Holiday Inn to hear the  
See **CONCERTS**, Page 5.



**Royal Music student Carol Murray makes music, something she didn't have time to do when she was in college or starting a family.**

## Fuzzy-sounding music? Eyesight a likely problem

The fuzzies got you down? Do you find yourself squinting at the keyboard while family and friends wince at the discords?

The problem may be your eyes rather than your fingers making the mistakes.

According to Harvey L. Kerker, OD, an optometrist at Ocean Eye Care next-

door to **ROYAL MUSIC CENTER** in the SeaCourt Pavilion, faulty eyesight can play mean tricks on the way you perceive the notes on music you're reading.

In general, anyone over 40 years of age is affected.

The solution is special prescription eyeglasses that per-  
See **FUZZY**, Page 4

# The Royal Dish ... or ... you said a moatful

## Jesting or jousting?

**My Dear Sir Jeffrey:**

I just want to let you know I have not been able to sleep for two weeks now. I've been playing my new 'lute' night and day since I dropped in on you that day I was hunting 'dear' in the **ROYAL MUSIC** Forest.

You were prepared to make sure I went away happy, but how you trapped me is most interesting. You knew I was looking at one item and you put this one back-to-back with it, knowing full well that I would be overcome by its beauty and versatility.

I believe you had been to Merlin for advice, because the spell worked and I lost a good bit of my gold. There is potent medicine in your arrows.

Everything is going along well here in my home forest except I may end up being divorced by Lady Josephine.

You see, she is a TV buff and there is a contest between her instrument and mine. I think I will win with my four 65-watt amplifiers. *C'est la vie!*

This is the fourth time you have wounded the sack of money that I keep hidden in a tree trunk.

I think I know the secret of your success. Like a good tailor, you fit the instrument to the player's ability.

That is in contrast to some other denizens in the forest who view the profit motive as a key element. Eventually, the Sheriff of Nottingham will pay them a visit.

Anyway, a proper fitting is important to keeping the other members of the court happy.

In conclusion, you may not see me in your castle for awhile for two reasons:

First, I'm too busy with my new toy.

Second, your castle is dangerous to my tree stump where I keep my reserves. I'm a succor for a bargain.

**Scribe John**

## The lost chord

**Dear Royal Music:**

I'm a proud owner of a Technics EN4. In less than two weeks of ownership, let me tell you how pleased I am. This is my fifth organ. Why? Because I couldn't find the sounds my ears were seeking until I got the Technics organ.

I enjoyed all four previous organs while I learned to play them, but something was always missing -- the sounds, the touch of the keys, the instruments. The Technics is great; it does what I want it

to do. The sound is fabulous: the flutes, the organ, the saxophone that sounds as though the player is in the room, the brass, the trumpet, the piano, and so much more.

You are more than welcome to give my telephone number to anyone who is searching for easy access to background instruments and easy-touch keys. Also, I thank you for helping me select the instrument that is right for me.

**Janet Sterling  
Whiting**

## Delightful

**Dear Royal Music:**

On behalf of the members of our Dover Seniors, it is my privilege to let you know how much we enjoyed Jeff Mazza entertaining us.

His musical selections and magical execution kept us all enthralled. I'm sure Jeff enjoys his work as much as his audience enjoys listening.

Thank you again, from all of us.

**Ruth M. Schill  
Recording Secretary  
Dover Seniors**

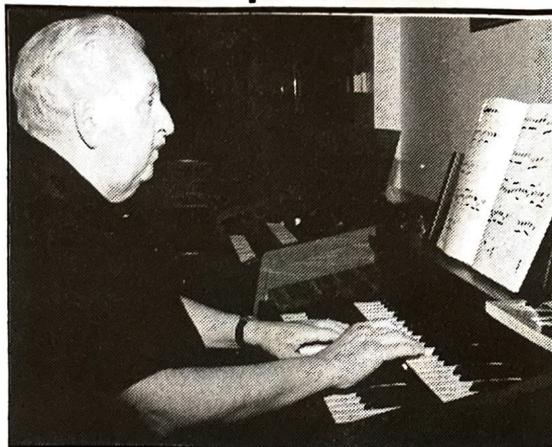
## We get letters

Have a comment? Want to make an observation, or pass along information? Write to **ROYAL MUSIC** at SeaCourt Pavilion, 635 Bay Ave., Toms River, N.J. 08753.

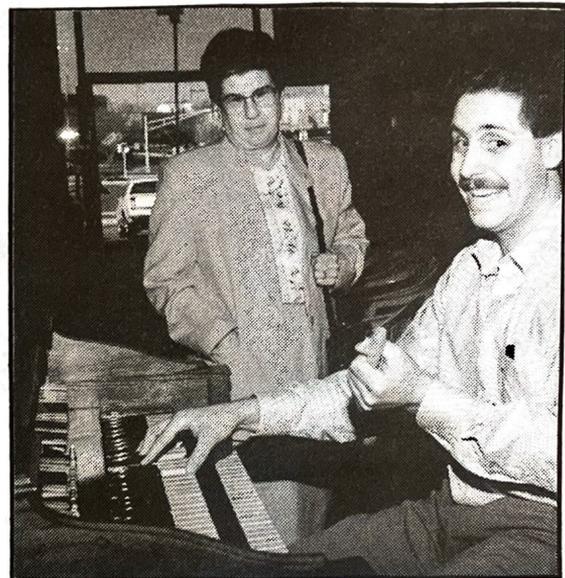


**Above left:** Friends and guests of Royal Music Center applaud introductions by Jeff, proprietor. Behind him is Ed Crane. **Above right:** Students and guests listen to Jeff.

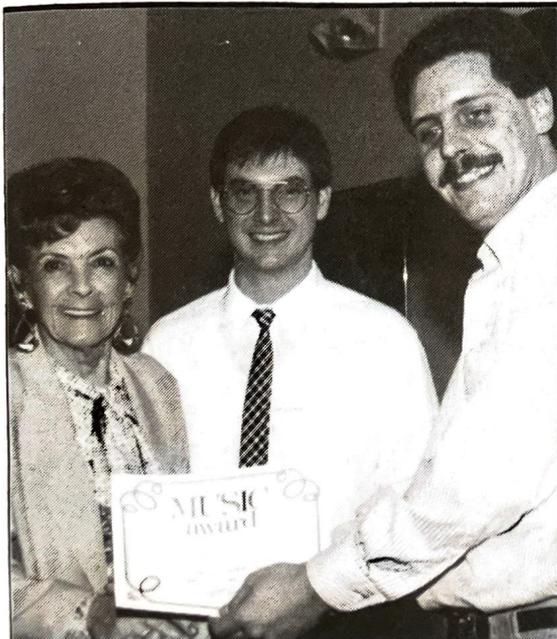
## Royal Music Center's Student Recital presents... **The sound of music!**



**Above:** The magic fingers of Ray Masciandro at the keyboard.



**Right:** Jeff Mazza's audience of one is Marge.



**Award time:** At left, Jean accepts her certificate from Ed and Jeff. Among other honorees:



Harry



Al



Alice



Carol



Grace



Clara



Stephie



Jeanette

Are your arms long enough?

## **Fuzzy eyesight can mean fuzzy music**

**From Page 1**

mit you to focus in that intermediate range where the music is placed on the keyboard. Essentially, these are the same eyeglasses that computer operators would use.

The condition that causes this is called presbyopia.

As we age, presbyopia sets in. Essentially, the flexible middle lens of the eye gradually loses elasticity, so by the age of 40, most people need reading glasses. A small percentage of people aren't affected until 45 or so, but by 47, almost everyone needs reading glasses, even people whose distance sight is still good.

Reading glasses are generally focused for objects 16 to 18 inches away, like books and newspapers. Distance glasses are focused for objects 20 feet or more away.

Sheet music -- like computer screens -- are usually between 20 and 24 inches from your eyes.

When you're younger, perhaps at 40, your eyes may still have enough elasticity that with reading glasses, you can focus on objects such as sheet

music four inches farther than your reading glasses are focused. But by 60 or 65 years of age, the elasticity is gone and your range of focus is less than two inches from the intended focal length of your reading glasses.

People trying to use bifocals to read sheet music may find themselves with neck or back aches from tilting their heads back to focus.

**Reading glasses  
focus at 16 to 20  
inches. Distance  
glasses focus at 20  
feet or more.**

**Piano glasses allow  
you to read music 20  
to 24 inches away.**

**And, almost every-  
one over 40 needs  
them.**

The same is true even for people who have trifocals or even newer "progressive" lenses with gradations between reading and distance focal lengths.

People who buy so-called reading glasses from chain drug stores may get headaches, because both lenses of those eyeglasses are the same, and few people have the same vision in both eyes.

The permanent solution is intermediate-range eyeglasses.

Dr. Kerker suggests anyone who wants to get music eyeglasses position themselves comfortably at the keyboard and have someone measure the distance between their eyes and the sheet music.

To have glasses made, tell your optometrist what that distance is and have eyeglass lenses made to focus comfortably at that distance.

He recommends plastic lenses because they are lighter in weight and thus, more comfortable. A pair of plastic eyeglass lenses costs about \$50, he said. They can be left on the organ and cleaned periodically with water and soft tissue. If you're concerned about cleaning them, a special scratch-resistant coating adds about \$22 to the cost. Add to that the costs of eyeglass frames that come in a variety of styles ranging from about \$40 to \$400, according to Dr. Kerker.

However, to save money, he suggests using old eyeglass frames. Many people have an old pair of eyeglasses stored in dresser drawers that can be used. Fitting new lenses to old frames saves on the cost of buying new frames.

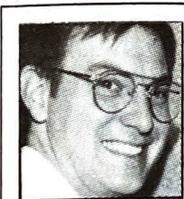
Same-day or 24-hour service is customary in many cases.

## Let there be background

By ED CRANE

In the beginning, it may seem difficult to play along with the factory-provided background of a new instrument.

Some students get into the groove more quickly than others, but don't be discour-



ED CRANE

aged. With practice, it can be learned.

The quick way to familiarize yourself with

the backgrounds you have available is to simply listen to them. Turn on the keyboard, don't play the keys, but go through the variety of background accompaniments that are offered, be they drums, bongos or violins. Once you know what's there, set the beat to fast and slow rhythms to determine your potential choices. Determine where the beats fall.

Whether you play a waltz or a march, all backgrounds have an emphasis called the downbeat. Most instruments have a way to help you find the downbeat. Check the owners' guide.

As you become comfortable with finding the downbeat, try



Did you ever notice how some people always manage to have fun and enjoy themselves? Royal Music students were making music at a recital and Al Carriotti liked the music so much, he got up to dance with his daughter.

playing a song starting on the downbeat.

Practice the beginning so you start off well.

Starting on the wrong beat is like trying to take a step while one foot is in the air. You either skip, or fall on your face.

Remember, first find the beats, then determine which is the downbeat and start your song. If you follow this method, you'll be playing with the backgrounds in no time at all.

## Concerts galore

From Page 1

artistry of Dennis Awe. It was his first Ocean County concert in more than 10 years, and he didn't let his audience down, either. His performance on the new Technics FA-1 was magnificent. We couldn't have

had a better artist to unveil the new organ.

We've made some additions to the Royal Family:

**Tom Robinson** has joined the staff as troubadour. He is an excellent source of information for students and I'm proud to be working with him again.

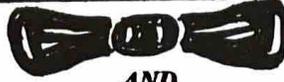
**Richie Mack** is back. Our seasonal troubadour spends winters teaching music in area schools and he devotes summers to the students at **ROYAL MUSIC CENTER**.

Our search is over! The perfect person to serve as Royal Music's director of education is **Pat McCadden**, and I'm pleased to announce she's joining our staff. She brings with her a love for making music that makes her classes both fun and educational.

# ROYAL MUSIC CENTER



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**BLACK-TIE SERVICE**



*AND*  
**BLUE-COLLAR PRICES**



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### Sunday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Day's Special during 8-hour sale: Brand-new 2-keyboard organ for \$1,888**

- Everything marked down
- Pre-owned organs starting at \$50 while they last
- Floor model clearance sale
- Studio models at ridiculously low prices
- New and used digital pianos starting at \$1,095
- Song books starting at \$1
- Christmas sheet music 65% off
- Largest selection of EZ-Play Music in Ocean and Monmouth counties
- Free T-shirts to the first 25 customers spending \$1 or more

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