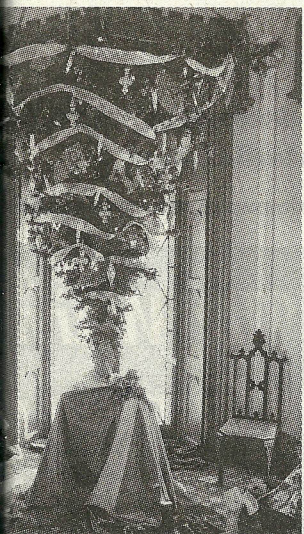


Briefs

as carol sing-along

Hickory Presbyterian Church is holding its 10th annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at Anna Elaine's Flute Choir will provide music beginning at 1:30 p.m. that afternoon. The Hickory Christmas Carol Sing-Along has become a community event with more than 200 festive people attending each year from all over the New York area. Following the concert, the church's Christmas tree will be illuminated, then the party will move to the Lower Children's House for food and drink and some holiday gifts. Santa Claus never misses a Christmas Carol Sing-Along event. The church is at 6 Greenacres Ave. For more information, visit hitchcock-hickory.com or phone 723-3311.



COURTESY LYNDHURST

's festive upside-down tree.

decor galore

Rated as one of the 10 best decorated historic mansions in the country, Lyndhurst Castle is celebrating the season with "A Very Merry Holiday." Elaborately hung with thousands of ornaments, this year's decorations at Lyndhurst pays homage to the real French princess, Anna Gould, the Duchess of Marlborough. Assorted room scenes have been created incorporating the collections, couture gowns and antique furniture. Christopher Radko ornaments from the past year remain stored in the castle. The castle is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 23. Admission is \$18.



SCARSDALE INQUIRER/JIM MACLEAN

Classical sister act

By LISA COLEMAN
BRADLOW

There is a small white heater next to the black grand piano in the Yogaradnam family home in Fox Meadow. "Yasmin's hands get so cold," said her mom, Dawn Leong, "she has to warm them up before she practices piano."

Even Yasmin's younger sister Annika feels the winter chill. "New York is so cold," she said.

Annika, age 6, and Yasmin, 9, are two friendly, talented girls, very serious about their music. Annika plays piano and violin; Yasmin plays piano and cello.

The sisters will make their musical performance debut Monday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Grinton I. Will branch of the Yonkers Public Library, 1500 Central Park Ave. It will be their first concert recital since arriving in New York. Their music teachers, Mimi, Sakiko and Harumi Furuya of Dobbs Ferry, have arranged the debut.

The Yogaradnam family moved to Scarsdale in September from Sydney, Australia, where the winters are much warmer. They are planning to stay in New York for at least three years.

"We love Broadway musicals," the girls agreed. "In Sydney, there would



only be one at a time, but we've already seen 'Matilda,' 'Finding Neverland,' 'Wicked' and 'Les Mis.'"

Yasmin is a fourth-grader at Fox Meadow Elementary School and has studied piano for almost five years; cello for nearly three.

"In first grade, I had to choose to play violin or cello, and by the next year I was the only one who had stuck with it," said Yasmin, who practices her two instruments for almost two hours each day, said.

Annika is in first grade and has studied piano for two years, the violin for one. She practices her instruments for an hour each day, scheduling half of that time in the morning before school, the other half after school.

"I also like to make time to do

Above and left, Yogaradnam sisters Yasmin, age 9, and Annika, age 6, will perform their first recital together at the Grinton I. Will branch of the Yonkers Public Library.

crafts," she said, adding she favors working with paper and pipe cleaners. She is also a fan of Taylor Swift's music.

"It's always good to have an opportunity to perform, since it targets their practice with a real goal," Leong said.

The girls' concert program will include a sonatina by Clementi, Schubert's "Impromptu Opus 90 No. 2" and Saint-Saens' "The Swan."

When they're not practicing their own, the girls sometimes play each other's instruments for fun.

"I have to hold the cello for Annika — it's bigger than she is," Yasmin said.

Admission to the sisters' concert is free of charge. For more information, visit furuyasisters.com.