

PEACE - WARFIELD STYLE

By Daniel Bower
Staff Writer

Thomas Warfield, award winning artist of music and dance, is collaborating with the Greater Rochester Community of Churches to help bring the message of peace to Rochester.

Thomas Warfield is a local dancer and director who has composed a peace concert to be held at 4:00 p.m. on November 22 at the Hochstein Music School Theater. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and children. Call (716) 232-6187 to order tickets.

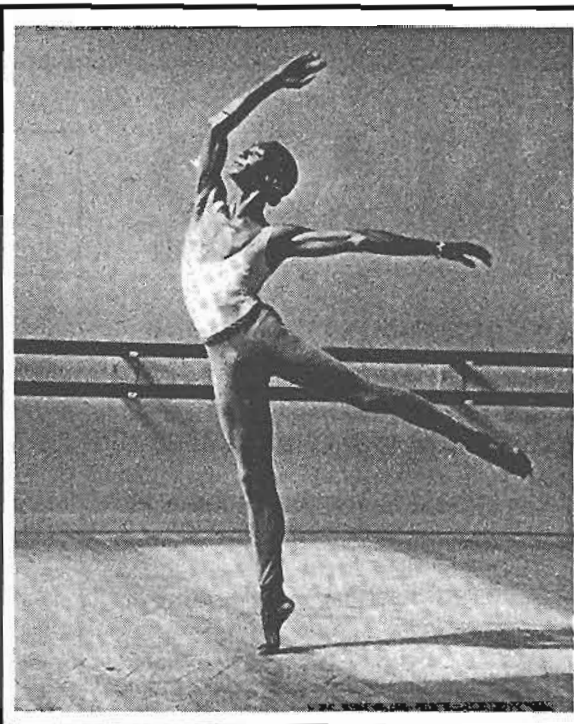
There will be performances by members of Black Seeds, Creative Rochester Choir (formerly Peace Child), Monroe Developmental Disability Rights, and students from the Rochester School of the Arts, Faith Community Health Awareness Center of Genesee Street, and the Eastman School of Music.

Warfield said the concert theme is "A community embracing peace." Warfield hopes to bring the people of Rochester together. He believes that peace can only be accomplished if peo-

ple look inward. "Peace is a personal thing, and it is actually about yourself," said Warfield, "By viewing yourself, you discover other people, and through other people you really discover yourself."

He works to bring the African-American experience to social consciousness without the use of stereotypical overtones. Warfield also feels it's important that all cultures blend. "You do not have to try to prove that you are black ... you have an identity ... this is not just black history, it's human history," Warfield said.

The idea for the concert came from Warfield's personal experiences. In particular, an experience that he had while working with a dance company in China. "I saw a little girl sitting in the dirt, drawing a picture on the ground with a stick, she saw me and just froze," said



Warfield. "I could have been from Mars or something ... I walked over to her, picked up the stick she was drawing with, and I sat down and started drawing a picture ... she picked up another stick and started drawing with me." "I then realized that we are really all the same."

When Warfield returned

home to the states, he wanted to do something that would connect people. He came up with the idea that he called, "A Global Poem for Praise and Peace," consisting of poems from Warfield's friends and loved ones. When Warfield told his friends about the poem, word quickly spread.

Leonard Bernstein also heard about the poem, and wrote to Warfield, the two men met and discussed the poem. Bernstein persuaded Warfield to tell more people about the poem.

Soon after Warfield put out the word, he began to receive letters from teachers and students of foreign countries, and even a letter from Mother Teresa.

At the time, Warfield was finishing his degree at the University of Utah, he decided to do a concert based on the poems he had accumulated.

He organized, directed and performed in the peace concert. "It brought people together in a

place that had nothing to do with the color of their skin or their gender ... it only had to do with being human," said Warfield. "Wars can't produce peace ... only in your heart, when you as an individual feel it is your responsibility to be peaceful, can peace be possible."

Warfield is now working to organize a company that he calls, "Peace Art International," to bridge the gap between art and every day life. The company will travel to different communities and produce peace concerts. He would also like to start workshops dealing with self evolution, using art, dance, music, drama and culture. "The arts use all of our faculties as human beings ... it is physical things and the mental process, it is an emotional expression and a spiritual elevation ... no matter what country you are from or economic status, it always is the same things, all those things must work together," said Warfield, "that is what peace is about ... the world needs a holistic vision of who we can be together."