

# Morton Gould concert mostly dull

By MARTIN SCOT KOSINS

An almost totally uninteresting concert was presented Sunday at Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester, by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Morton Gould.

The one point of interest was the jocal debut of 17-year-old pianist Myro Park. Full of energy and cute as a pin, she performed the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat.

Her reading was technically impressive. The difficult scale and octave passages of the first movement allegro literally poured from her fingers. In a most unusual gesture, the audience demanded a bow after this first movement alone.

In the slow movement, the often oversentimentalized melodies took on a certain freshness. Her approach was lighter than usual, and it worked.

## Review

And in the finale, as in the entire work, she seemed to be having quite a bit of fun. This enthusiasm was most appreciated by the audience.

**THE YOUNG LADY** certainly has style and charisma. One must fault, however, her habit of letting go of final phase chords too soon. This can be corrected easily. Her tone is quite attractive, and it will be interesting to hear how she develops over a length of time.

The rest of the concert was dull, beginning with a makeshift suite of Tchaikovsky waltzes. Due to the un-

pired leadership of Morton Gould, these seemed like they would never end.

His tempi for the three waltzes were the same, where they should have been varied. They are, after all, from different contexts—projecting different moods.

"The Sleeping Beauty" waltz was plodding and choppy. The waltz from "Serenade for Strings" was extremely lackluster. And attacks in the "Swan Lake" excerpt were untidy. At times the orchestra did not sound together.

In general, they sounded uninterested. It takes a truly fine conductor to breathe life into such standard repertory. Gould did not.

In his role as accompanist to Ms. Park, his reading was stodgy and lacked tension and flow. Often the orchestra was too loud, and various brass and winds were out of tune. It is

always a little depressing to hear a fine orchestra play below par.

ON THE PLUS side, the sound of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra violin section seems to be improving, perhaps in anticipation of future maestro Antal Dorati.

Gould perked up a bit for the performance of his own composition, "American Ballads." The work is a string of fancy arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner," "America the Beautiful," "Taps" and so on.

I found the work boring and the variations aimless. Nothing new in the way of orchestral colors or timbre could be heard. Most of the arranging seemed derivative.

Gould's stature aside, surely, with so much excellent music as yet unheard, we could be treated to something more musically rewarding at concerts of this kind.

## Ceccato farewell to highlight week

Stan Kenton's band, the Four Freshmen and Fred Waring's Young Pennsylvanians share this weekend's Meadow Brook Music Festival programming with an all-Beethoven and an all-Brahms concert by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

But the sentimental highlight will be Maestro Aldo Ceccato's final conducting appearances as music director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and of the orchestra's summer home, the Meadow Brook Music Festival. He is leaving to devote more time as musical director for the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra and to guest conducting appearances. Leon C. Petrus, festival managing

director, commented that Maestro Ceccato leaves his fans and symphony devotees in the area a rich legacy in the strength of the classical program he arranged for his final summer at Meadow Brook.

Ceccato will conduct both Thursday and Saturday evening Detroit Symphony Orchestra concerts this week. He has asked Gordon Staples, the orchestra's concertmaster, and Italo Babin, principal cellist, to join with him Saturday evening in a performance of the Brahms Double Concerto for violin and cello, a work not heard at Meadow Brook since the festival's inaugural season 14 years ago.

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