

Paray conducts with vitality

By PATRICIA BEACH SMITH
The music for Thursday's (July 22) Meadow Brook Music Festival concert was well chosen. All of it needed a full-time conductor — one who was on his toes to lead an orchestra that could respond to his direction.

The conductor who filled the bill was one of the Detroit area's favorites, Paul Paray. The orchestra, which in almost every case responded accordingly, was the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

The music was strictly gallic and full of rests, trills and accelerandos. Paray, at a ripe 90 years of age, seems to be an ever-vital conductor despite the failing in his legs. His arms and expressions do not seem to tire, and to those legs which failed him slightly Thursday causing gasps from the audience.

From the playing of the emotional French national anthem through the Laio, Berlioz, Bizet and Ravel, it was strictly a night for Francophiles.

PARAY CONDUCTED the Berlioz Overture to "Benvenuto Cellini" with great emotion. He took full advantage



of every dramatic moment written into this music, although it proved to be far less interesting than the Chausson Symphony in B-flat which followed.

The first movement of the Chausson was sluggish, but pretty despite its repetitiousness. The second movement was more dramatic, but the third

movement was the killer.

In it the trumpet solo was lucid and very well played, as were all the brass passages. The orchestra was really up for this movement and it made the whole piece come together.

The rendering of the Laio Overture to "Le Roi D'Ys" afforded the oboe and clarinet players a well deserved bow.

Brian Schweickhardt, clarinet, played very sensitively and beautifully in this piece as did his fellow woodwind player, oboist Robert Sorton.

ITALO BABINI, the DSU's first cellist, also played well in a sumptuous Laio cello solo.

The woodwinds again triumphed in the playing of the Bizet "Carmen" suite. Ervin Monroe, Paul Schaller and Donald Baker got a chance to really show off in this work. But overall the work was conducted too slowly.

One of the most eloquent pieces of music Ravel ever wrote is the Pavane for a dead infant and it was no less than that Thursday evening. However, the tempo was disastrously slow in the beginning, finally picking up toward the end.

The brass section appeared to be out of tune for part of the playing, too. The

phrasing seemed less well defined than possible, but the effect was interesting in the end.

Paray's intention with this work was to keep it dramatic, so perhaps the slowness in the beginning only helped to make it more so when the tempo picked up.

It was clear from the audience's reception of Paray's conducting that he'll be a welcome guest on Detroit stages for as long as he wishes to conduct. An unsteady moment or two was not enough to quell the enthusiasm which is inherent in this man's musical soul.

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Marshall plans fall tour

An innovative look at houses in process of restoration and six "first-time" houses will be the highlights of Historic Marshall's (Michigan) 13th annual Historic Home Tour, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11-12.

The event is sponsored by the Marshall Historical Society with the cooperation of some 35 civic, social, fraternal and religious organizations.

Billed as a "Bicentennial Celebration," the tour will feature a total of 13 structures open to the public. These will include six private homes already restored, three homes and an 1835 hotel in process of restoration, and the city's three quasi-public historic buildings. The "almost" Governor's Mansion (1839), Honolulu House (1860), and Capitol Hill School (1860).

The tour calls particular attention to the little city's (population 7,250) bicentennial projects including a \$60,000 restoration of the famed Brooks Memorial Fountain raised by the Chamber of Commerce's Bicentennial Committee by public subscription. The historical society's main project was a new exterior for Honolulu House that involved painting, re-roofing, and chimney rebuilding.

The DAR's Governor's Mansion has also been painted with the assistance of the Marshall Jaycees. Capitol Hill School was totally restored a year ago.

WITH THE THOUGHT that the public would be interested in seeing restoration in process as well as completed, four owners have agreed to go on tour. These will include: National House Inn (1835); Joy-Bryant house, an 1844 Italianate; the George and Kinter homes, both Queen Anne built in 1886. Of these four, only the Joy-Bryant house has ever been shown before (1974).

Among the six homes already restored are three "first-timers." The Mahek House, an 1868 Gothic Revival; the Sullivan House, an 1858 Gothic Revival; and the Swift House, an 1892 Romanesque. The other three restored homes, all last shown in 1972, include the C. E. Brooks House, Greek Revival (1838); C. W. Brooks House, Greek Revival (1841); and the Crighton Sherman House, Gothic Revival (1867).

The 13 buildings range in age from 84 to 141. They represent an outstanding cross-section of 19th century architecture, particularly from the 1840-70 period when Marshall was at its 19th century highpoint.

All are or will be beautifully maintained. In fact, all Marshall residents make a special effort to groom their homes, gardens, and the entire community for tour time.

For the seventh year the event will be run on both days of the weekend in order to let visitors enjoy the unstructured tour along Marshall's tree-shaded streets at their leisure. Hours

will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12. (Please note: all times are Eastern Daylight time.)

The tour also recreates the ambience and atmosphere of the last century with such events as church luncheon, bake sales, antique sale, an arts and crafts fair (with more than 110 crafts people), band concerts, an ice cream social, a Civil War encampment, barbershop quartet singing, and numerous other events recalling the customs and pleasures of 100 years ago.

Collateral features of this year's tour will be a Grand Bicentennial Parade at noon each day. Highlight of the Sunday parade will be the recreation of the 5th Michigan Regiment Band from Howell. This Bicentennial project includes an 85-piece Civil War Band, historic color guard, folk dancers, bango band, life and drum band, all totaling 160 people.

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