

Local arranger a hit as composer

By GLENN M. ANDERSEN

Last Sunday violinist Misha Rachlevsky, appearing with the West Bloomfield Symphony with Felix Resnick conducting, performed the world premiere of Wade Marcus' "Concerto Grosso for Violin and Orchestra."

Marcus, a Southfield resident, whose principle fame and fortune has been as an arranger in the pop music field, has an extremely colorful harmonic palate to work with. The work is a classic three-movement concerto in form, and demanding on both the soloist and orchestra.

HIS ORCHESTRATION makes full

use of the vehicle at hand, rather than that of an overgrown studio orchestra as might be expected. The solo part contains all of the trappings desired in a major violin concerto—double stops, huge leaps and virtuosic passages.

The work opens in traditional fashion with a simple theme, stated first by various sections of the orchestra, then in full tutti. Some development follows and finally the solo part commences.

Unfortunately, despite the richness of the harmonies and orchestration, the movement fails to go anywhere from there. The second movement, musically the most interesting of the three, shows more melodic inventiveness.

ness. The ambivalence of keys and sonorities are smoothly woven throughout the movement.

The somewhat subdued finale, like the first movement, contains several contrived melodic transitions that tend to weaken the piece.

RACHLEVSKY'S PERFORMANCE was steady, and his technique more than adequate for the technical demands of the work. His role as soloist was undeservedly overshadowed by the event of this being a world premiere and the presence of the composer and his entourage of dignitaries. Resnick and the orchestra gave him capable accompaniment.

The concert opened with Sibelius' Second Symphony, his most popular symphony. The reading was straightforward and refreshing. The execution was not of the "A" for effort variety, so common among community orchestras, but rather one of a high degree of polish.

The ragged violin entrances and

imbalances in the brass were infrequent enough to be heavily outweighed by the general high level of performance. The tricky third movement was played with laudible virtuosity in the strings, and the abrupt tempo changes were deftly negotiated by the conductor. It was also in the third movement that the cellos displayed a beautiful tone.

Maestro Resnick's no-nonsense conducting style had a tendency to telegraph trouble spots in the music, but it was good to see a conductor who obviously viewed his task as that of directing the music, rather than choreographing gyrations for the audience's sake.

The last work in the program was an encore of sorts for Marcus. It was his somewhat overly lush arrangement of Webb's "MacArthur Park." Unfortunately, Resnick's scholarly reading of this pop tune sounded like it was meant for an FM easy listening station, which gave a flat finale to an otherwise satisfying concert.

Southfielders win in bridge tourney

Several Southfield residents recently emerged as champions in competition sponsored by the American Contract Bridge League in Denver.

Joan and Vincent Remey of Southfield were winners in their section of the Mixed Pairs, a two-day major championship in which 996 players competed. Joan Remey also was a member of a team that tied for second overall in the one-day Women's Swiss Teams. There were 150 teams in the competition.

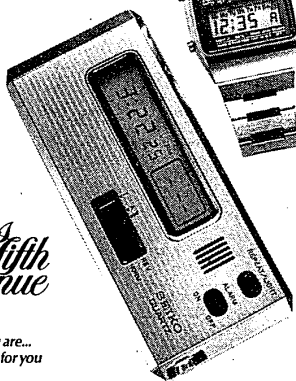
Linda and Howard Pearlman of Southfield won first in their section and placed fifth overall in the Flight A Masters Pairs, a one-day championship in which 1,072 players competed.

Sylvia Stein of Florida and her partner Leonard Goldstein of Florida won first overall in the Colorado State Silver Trophy Pairs, Flight A, and received silver trophies for their success. There were 220 players in the one-day championship.

The events were among six North American Championships, six Western States Championships and 48 other events which drew 4,400 players to 10 days of competition.

The Bridge League is an organization of about 200,000 competitive players in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Bermuda. It conducts 900 tournaments a year, and 5,000 clubs provide weekly games throughout the continent.

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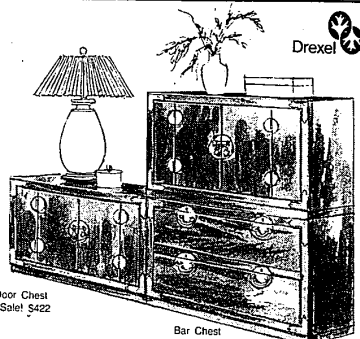
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