

No fish stories — just one trout

By PATRICIA BEACH SMITH

If fishes were horses — it might have been a stampede at the recent "American Artists' Series" concert at Kingswood School. But it was love all around. No fish stories there, except for one — about the trout.

Soprano Roma Riddell, pianist Joan Freeman, violinists Linda Sneed and Frank D'Antonio, violist David Ireland, cellist John Thurman and double bassist Maxim Janowsky performed one of the lushest concerts

yet in this ambitious series.

The elegant afternoon concert began with a startling Panfare, composed by Wayne State University Professor James Hartway. It was commissioned by the "American Artists' Series" for the current 10th anniversary season. This work for brass choir is surprisingly listenable, but like much contemporary music, one wishes it could be repeated immediately for a second opinion. Its complicated counterpoint needs the reference of at least two play-

ings to be well comprehended.

THERE WAS NOTHING elusive, however, about the rest of the first half of the program. The mood was strictly romantic, borne beautifully by the voice of Roma Riddell and her accompanists. It isn't exactly fair to call the instrumentalists "accompanists." Their role in the Gabriel Faure "La Bonne Chanson" Opus 61, is major.

Faure wrote the work as a piece for seven voices and that was exactly the way it was performed

Sunday. The magnificent music was handled delicately and elegantly by the performers.

Mrs. Riddell is obviously in love with French music. As a vehicle, it is beautifully suited to her voice's timbre and range. She possibly has never sung better. She sang expressively but with studied control. She was relaxed but not sloppy.

In "Puisse l'aube grandir" Ms. Riddell's broad vocal range was exhibited. Faure's exquisite music found a home with this singer and the piano and string quintet. The effects created were shimmering, delicate images of love's unfettered expressions. "J'ai presque peur, en vérité" was especially beautiful.

Chausson's lovely "Chanson Perpetuelle," Opus 37 also was gracefully performed.

The French idiom met its match in Schubert's sporting "Trout" opus. When is a trout a noble beast? When Schubert set its story to music.

MRS. RIDDELL and pianist Freeman set the mood by performing Schubert's engaging "Die Forelle," a song he wrote when he was 20 years old. Only two years later, he took the thematic material from the song and built the famous and intriguing "Trout Quintet" Opus 114. At the hands of Sunday's performers, it was again shown to be the masterpiece it is purported to be.

Coming from the oft super serious Schubert, "Trout" comes as a pleasant and frolicking surprise. The young Schubert apparently did not take himself as seriously

as he did when he aged some. Age may have brought a little more maturity to his music, but certainly no more inventiveness than in this work. The performers appeared to be having a good time, too, — but not without the effort it takes to make something difficult look easy.

The role of each instrument is clearly delineated. The piano, offered Sunday by Ms. Freeman, builds the watery quality of the piece. The double bass maintains the rhythmic integrity. The viola and cello, with their in-

tertwining voices, seem to speak for the trout as it twists in the clear pool. The violin appears to be the storyteller. Who knows? The effect was charming.

The beautiful duet passage for the cello and viola was wonderfully played by David Ireland and John Thurman in the andante movement. The marvelous rondo of the theme and variations section of the fourth movement were cleverly performed all. The ensemble must be credited with a superb performance of a very difficult work.

Oberlin College Choir to give local concert

The Oberlin College Choir will appear in concert at 8 p.m. Friday, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1609 W. Maple.

Under the direction of Daniel Moe, the choir's program includes choral masterworks from the 16th through the 20th centuries, Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Mozart's "Vesperae Solennes de Confessione" will be performed.

The Oberlin College Choir consists of 61 students who are accompanied by a 13-member chamber orchestra. Members of the orchestra and choir are selected by audition from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the college of arts and sciences. The choir

has appeared in many of America's most prestigious concert halls, including Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center. A most remembered tour was in 1964 when they toured the Soviet Union and received superb reviews in the Russian press.

Moe is in his eighth year as professor of choral conducting in the conservatory of music. Before coming to Oberlin, he was director of choral music for 11 years at the University of Iowa. While there, he developed a nationally recognized graduate program in choral literature and conducting. Moe is also known for his compositions and appears as guest conductor and choral clinician throughout the country.

'A Woman's Voice' acted out by We Do

"A Woman's Voice," a dramatic narrative, will be acted out by a member of "We Do" at 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 28, in Birmingham Temple, 28611 12 Mile Road.

"We Do" is the acronym for "Women Employed in Dramatic Outreach" created by Barbara Halpern, Marilyn Rowens and Judy Schneider.

Admission is without charge.

"We feel we have something to say to the woman who has been missed by the woman's movement," Ms. Rowens said. "The woman who is coping the woman who is the successful mother, the woman who has grown and developed in spite of obstacles, the woman who is not angry, the woman who is optimistic."

"Today both men and women are caught in a changing world. We need the opportunity to come together in

meaningful dialogue and exchange feelings and ideas."

Che and informal discussion is a part of the program, given after the dramatic narrative.

"Sometimes we tend to think that our very own problems and concerns about ourselves in relation to society are exclusive and no one else feels the same way," Ms. Rowens said.

"In order to meet this need, to talk, Women Employed in Dramatic Outreach offer 'A Woman's Voice.'"

The narrative is described as a one-act drama that deals with the pain and pleasure of being human.

"The program will let a person look into changes and attitudes that have influenced our lives over the past 50 years," she said.

Ms. Rowens is author and creative director of "A Woman's Voice."

Nursery plans open house

Nardin Park Community Nursery School hosts open house from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, March 23, for all parents and their 3- and 4-year-olds interested in a nursery school program for the coming term.

Students enrolled now, their parents and teachers will show visitors through the school in Nardin Park United Methodist Church on 11 Mile Road, west of Middlebelt Road.

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