

Musicians perpetuate Brahms' soiree

By ERIC PETERS

The eighth concert of the Brahms Festival was a casual affair in soiree setting. It was an evening of enormous variety. Greater and lesser talents mixed in compatible proportions with wit and good natured humor.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Conductor Antal Dorati and violinist Isaac Stern alternated, introducing the guests and engaged in a fair amount of highly entertaining badinage.

The banter took the tense edge off the performance and abolished the serious mood which pervades most concerts.

"I am here partly as a straight man for Antal Dorati," said Stern. "The people up here chatting and looking relaxed are just pretending to be normal. The relaxed camaraderie is basically a fake."

"Yes, Isaac," Dorati replied, "but it is a fake fake. Basically we are very happy people."

"Especially those of us who like to talk," countered Stern. Setting the tone of the evening was the disarming opening performance of the four hands piano piece by Brahms, Hungarian Dance No. 6. Two of those hands belonged to Ilse von Alphenheim. The other two belonged to her husband, Maestro Dorati.

Malitz recognized at honors convocation

David Malitz was recognized for his outstanding academic achievements in the College of Literature Science during University of Michigan's 57th annual Honors Convocation.

The pre-medical student is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Morton Malitz of Farmington Hills.

review

"And thus are historic traditions established," quipped Stern at its conclusion.

Italo Babin, cello, and Muriel Kilby, piano, played the beautiful and sensitive Fantasiestücke, Opus 73, by Robert Schumann, Brahms' mentor and sponsor. There was some lovely singing by Glenda Kirkland and Barbara Windham in Brahms' "Die Boten der Liebe," Opus 61, No. 4, with Bernard Katz of the Brio Trio on piano.

A SWEET, delicate violin played by Igor Ozim and a stately piano by Ms.

Alpenheim characterized the wonderful Romance in D-flat major by Clara Schumann. A more opposite piece could hardly be found to follow the Brahms Capriccio in G minor for Piano, Opus 116, No. 3, flawlessly played with dynamic interpretation by Eugene Istomin. This late work, powerful, at times quite angry, brought the first half of the program to an energetic close.

The second half began with Souvenir de la Russie for Piano and Four Hands, Opus 151, by Brahms, under the pseu-

donym "Marks" and written, as Dorati said, "For a time when many more people played the piano badly than do now." To which Stern replied, "Some of the places young Brahms played the piano were houses, but not homes."

What sheer pleasure it was to hear Joan Freeman and the well loved Misha Kottler play the piece and to watch Istomin nodding in absorbed approval and anticipating certain passages with twitching fingers.

Next came the languid and lovely melancholy of the Adagio from Herzogenberg's Quintet in D-minor for Piano and Winds, Opus 43, with fine ensemble playing by Muriel Kilby, Donald Baker, Paul Schaller, Robert Williams and Eugene Wade.



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