

Orchestra stages rarely heard work

By MARY DOERR

A French name, a Russian folk tale, a chorale that parallels that of a German master, a Spanish paso doble and a touch of American ragtime made up the fully-staged production in the final season performance of the Oakway Symphony orchestra.

"L'Histoire du Soldat" by Igor Stravinsky, a difficult and rarely done work, required the talents of Oakway's capable concertmaster, Victoria Halton. She provided the spirit of the Stravinsky tale in her violin solos reminiscent of the type of part Isaac Stern had in "Fiddler on the Roof."

Narrating the Faust-like story of a soldier who sells himself to the devil was Howard Eagan, a 26-year acting veteran. Eagan delivered the poetic lines with precision and clarity, leading up to the moral "You can't have everything you want, so be happy with what you got."

Michael Traicoff, president of The Players, took the part of the devil. The Players is Detroit's oldest theatrical group. Traicoff demonstrated his versatility in his portrayals of the many characters the part required.

ROBERT YOST, another member of The Players, portrayed a stately but often confused soldier who, in his dream of having all that there is to possess, continually yields to the devil's reasoning and ends up with nothing. Yost had the part of imitating Halton's violin solos. As the soldier, Yost plays the violin, but surrenders it with

the control of his life to the devil, who never learns to play it.
Betty Monroe danced the part of the princess with freshness and life which brought an immediate response from the audience.

SERVING AS ARTISTIC director for the performance was Oakway's flutist, Pamela Hill. Ms. Hill, an accomplished musician, directed the show with extreme accuracy and touches of humor.

Bradley Wong, a superb clarinetist, and Randall Benway, an excellent pianist, completed the trio with Halton.

After the intermission, Conductor Francesco Di Blasi led the orchestra in a well-chosen "Adagio for Strings" by Samuel Barber. The popular piece provided a pleasant balance of sound after the woodwind-brass effect of the Stravinsky selection.

This was followed by "The Suburbansities, Movie Music" by Belanger. It had interesting interplays between piano and orchestra.
Completing the evening of 20th century composers was the beautiful "Pines of Rome" by Respighi. With this final note, Oakway Symphony concluded its season. But the imaginative Di Blasi is already planning unusual programs for the 1980-81 season.

review

Poet wins foundation award

Faye Kicknaway, Bloomfield Hills poet and artist, was one of five metropolitan area artists honored by the Michigan Foundation for the Arts this week.

At a ceremony yesterday at the Engineering Society of Detroit theater, each of the five received \$2,500. The others were: John Egner, Detroit painter and member of the Wayne State University art faculty; Lavinia Moyer, actress and theater director from Detroit; Jim Pallas, Detroit sculptor; and Ralph Votapek, East Lansing concert pianist.

Michigan's first lady, Helen Milliken, was given a commemorative plaque of Pewabic pottery for her patron service to Michigan arts.

Ms. Kicknaway's background ranges from writing, illustrating and publishing five books of poetry to teaching, lecturing and giving poetry readings in universities across the country.

She received the Tompkins award in 1965 and 1966, the Miles Modern Poetry award in 1966 and 1967 and she also won a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship in 1967. Her two latest books are "The

Cat Approaches" published by the Alternative Press in Grinnell City and "Nothing Wakes Her," published by Oyster Press in Santa Barbara, Calif.

EGNER HAS BEEN teaching painting at Wayne State since 1966. His experience and active involvement as mentor of many aspiring students is balanced and matched by his influence of and involvement with some of the most significant names to have emerged in the city such as Gordon Newton, Michael Luchs and James Chate-lain.

As an artist, painter and sculptor, Egner is an experimentalist, illustrated by his latticework structures covered with poured pigment and his painted wood constructions. He achieved national recognition when he was one of 10 artists selected for a recent Guggenheim Museum exhibition, "Young American Talent."

Ms. Moyer's contribution to Michigan theater began in 1975 with her involvement in the creation of Roadside Attractions Inc., then located in Ann Arbor. In December 1976, as president

and artistic director of the organization, she successfully transplanted the group to Detroit's Greektown and formed the Attic Theater. The theater, warmly received in the metropolitan area, recently moved to a permanent home on East Lafayette.

Pallas, a native Detroit, joined the art faculty at Macomb County Community College in 1966 where he still teaches.

In 1968 Pallas produced his first electric sculpture, a kinetic relief which responds to the sounds of a harpsichord. By 1977 his mastery of the craft of electronics had led him into producing systems that actively responded to various environmental qualities: light, sound and movement. He has had many group shows as well as individual exhibits at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Allan Stone Gallery in New York City.

In the very near future, a large computer-controlled canopy of lights will project over a pool located on Washington Blvd. in Detroit and will be affected by the activity of passersby. Pallas is also working on a three-group sculpture

ture for U.S. Sen. Carl Levin's office which will, among other things, respond to the sounds of the proceedings on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

VOTAPEK, ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE, at Michigan State University, won the first Van Cliburn international competition in 1962. He has been maintaining an active concert schedule at home and abroad ever since.

In 1975 he made a series of successful appearances in Russia. He has appeared with many of American top symphony orchestras, the Chicago Symphony, the Detroit Symphony and the Boston Pops. Last year his concert schedule included concerts in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Warren and Mt. Pleasant.

The Michigan Arts awards were established in 1976 and are made annually to artists and patrons in various disciplines. The selections are made because of outstanding achievement which has helped create an environment which nourishes and promotes the arts in Michigan.

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All interested citizens and community organizations will be given a chance to express their views regarding this decision at the above time and place. More information regarding the hearing may be obtained by calling Mr. J. Michael Dorman at 474-6115.

J. MICHAEL DORMAN for the
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