

Trio moves easily from Bach to Denver

review

By JOANNE K. PSENKA

The relaxed tone of Sunday's concert at Somerset Hall featuring the Aeolian Harp Trio offered a respite from a fast-paced work week.

Inspired expertise in a varied program produced an atmosphere of casual listening and delightful enjoyment. Mary Scudder, flute, performed with autumn mellow tones. Debbie Mulder provided bass line support with her capable cello. Ruth Myers played that curious modern instrument in the spotlight — the Aeolian harp.

The denominator common to the afternoon was the shortness of most selections — just right for the casual listener who might have stopped shopping to dine in Benno's.

Each musical selection was announced with placards, a procedure of the variety show, going back some years. Many selections were old favorites given new arrangements. Familiar but not, songs were played so that classical music buffs would be pleased and surprised. Many were original piano and flute scores, reworked for trio.

THE PERFORMANCE remained formal in concert trio garb. This presented a pleasing pattern of lights and darks — a visual celebration dominated only by the harp on stage.

In the interpretation of "Bereave" by Faure, the flute played a phantom melody. The three distinct sound sensibilities of the trio captured the liquid quality of the music, where the melody doubles back. It was delightfully romantic.

"Siciliano" by Bach well met the stars as an old friend. His work for three is conceived according to Bach's understanding of counterpoint. Trio members joined in integral blending of sound and the most effective timing.

Also familiar, the old English ballad "Greensleeves" is a melancholy air.

Ms. Myers, harpist, gave an outstanding performance. Loellett's G-major sonata in four movements was the single long work. It possesses refreshing tonalities of key.

Ms. Scudder elaborated the most satisfying flute trills. A second allegro movement gallops through a planned discord of variations for the three instruments going separate ways. This variation is, in part, repetitious, but the revision is satisfying.

"Claire de Lune" by Debussy was originally intended for keyboard, the trio played an arrangement. The solo harp was exciting.

SLOW AND SINGING, Serenade No. 10 Andante Cantabile by Persichetti was smooth with legatos and phrased glides.

Returning to Bach, the trio tried a baroque elaboration in the Suite No. 2 Menuet and Badinerie. Again, three-part counterpoint gave the fabric of the sound that distinctly Bach touch. The Badinerie was very familiar. Each performer excelled playing Bach.

A Vivaldi sensation, rain from "The Seasons" mimicked the random flight of raindrops and their stop. The flow on the harp was enchanting and the flutist has a masterful touch. The cello provided a consistent basso continuo.

Classical arrangements of recent popular songs were no compromise to popular music, but a test of skill for what the classical bonus flute, harp and cello can provide.

Barbara Streisand's "Evergreen" was a somber rendition with pale shadows. Highlight on the harp "Send in the Clowns" had a merry but complex sound. "Amie's Song" by John Denver for flute and harp concluded a relaxed autumn afternoon.

The Martin Scott Trio will be featured at the mall from 2-4 p.m. Sunday.

Exhibit focuses on Maori art

"Tangata," a photographic exhibition that captures the New Zealand Maori concept of mankind, will be shown Oct. 11 through Nov. 23 at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Photographed by New Zealand photographer Brian Brake, the exhibition focuses on Maori art and artifacts reflecting the early 18th century to post-European settlement culture.

Through 33 color photographs of decorations carved into wood or stone buildings, canoes, tools, musical instruments, chests and other domestic articles, the viewer can detect subtle and intricate art with a Polynesian flavor in addition to highly distinctive styles.

Produced for the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand, the exhibition is sponsored by the Embassy of New Zealand and circulated by the Association of Science-Technology Centers.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays.

Museum is \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for students and senior citizens. It includes this exhibition as well as regularly scheduled planetarium demonstrations.

Cranbrook Institute of Science is at 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

New Sources to show film

New Sources, a women's network, will present the film "Dumping Sandbags to Sea at Will" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, in the Village Motor Inn, 300 N. Hunter, one block north of Maple in Birmingham.

Through a series of vignettes dealing with real-life situations and guided discussions, women will be encouraged to identify attitudes and assumptions that prevent them from assuming leadership roles in their homes, communities and careers.

Dr. Sally Poinsett of Franklin, a professor at Oakland University, developed the film as part of a leadership project, funded through the Women's Educational Equity Act.

To make a reservation, contact New Sources at 851-3150. Admission fee for the program is \$6.

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