

# Gershwin rhapsody highlights concert

By MARY DOERR

West Bloomfield's own David Syme received a standing ovation for his powerful rendition of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with the West Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra.

The strength which Syme (a towering figure) can muster allowed for his rousing interpretation of the rhythmically exciting American favorite.

His worldwide reputation was justified by the ease with which he handled the syncopated rhythms. However, he is fully capable of gentle expression where the music calls for it. Possessing both styles seems rare in one with so commanding an appearance.

**THE CONCERT WAS** an unusual program of six rhapsodies, in which the West Bloomfield Symphony, under the baton of Felix Resnick, took its audience on a musical travelogue with folk tunes and highly popularized melodies from six lands.

The evening opened with a rather slow moving "Rhapsody Espanole" by Maurice Ravel, evenly played by the orchestra. The percussion section provided some unusual effects.

The well-known "Swedish Rhapsody"

## review

by Aliven followed with its livelier tunes.

Completing the first half of the concert was the well-known and loved "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2" by Liszt. He was the proponent of the rhapsody in its musical form, and the originator of its nationalistic associations.

The well-defined and precise sound of the West Bloomfield Orchestra was particularly appreciated in this number. The orchestra is so well controlled by Resnick in the many pianissimo

melodies that when the full sound of the orchestra is heard, the melodiousness is retained.

The second half opened with the nostalgic "Irish Rhapsody" by Herbert. "Believe Me, If All These Endearing Young Charms," made way for the effective climax of the string section, melody against the stately brass chords.

Syme followed with the highlight of the concert. His performance was only lacking in that there were no encores.

**ENDING THE EVENING** on a lively note, but anticlimactic after Syme, was the orchestra's rendition of Enesco's "Roumanian Rhapsody No. 1."

# Trio raises expectations for OU's musical future

By ERIC COLIN PETERS

## review

A fine, classical concert of Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert marked the premiere performance of the President's Trio of Oakland University. This newly formed chamber group-in-residence performed last Saturday evening in Varner Recital Hall.

Displaying the careful expertise of professional musicianship, the trio produced music with remarkable cohesion and a light, clean sound. Considering the short association of the trio, expectations for their future have already risen exceptionally high.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra members Misha Rachlevsky, violin, Paul Silver, viola, and David Saltzman, cello, comprise the trio. Joining them for this performance was the well-known Brazilian born pianist, Flavio Varani, winner of the 1950 International Chopin competition.

The standard of the evening was set from the first note of the wonderfully played B-Flat Major Trio No. 1 by

Schubert. It was followed by the somewhat exotic mood of the Intermezzo by Zoltan Kodaly.

**BETHOVEN'S TRIO IN G Major, Opus 9, No. 1,** was so well done that it won bursts of applause between movements.

The first adagio generated high energy; the second, a delicacy and sensitivity. In the scherzo, a silvery tune was tossed between violin and viola, then it became a dignified, halting theme, marvelously rendered. A concluding presto ran the gambit from vigor to yearning, solemn reflection to frothy, rapid, descending scales.

The Piano Quartet in C Minor, Opus 25, by Brahms, made up the second half of the program. Varani brought a very romantic flavor to the piece while the trio was inclined to a more strict, academic approach. It was a good, suitable combination of Brahms' two characteristic tendencies, and it was integrated with surprising smoothness.

The mix of moods this interpretation created brought a certain flair to Brahms, a welcome change from the heaviness commonly evoked in that composer.

**THE FIRST MOVEMENT,** allegro, had a kind of high drama about it; intermezzo surged and flowed into a detailed trading of themes between piano and violin. Andante con moto began with a little piano march, then burst into a fully, embellished possession of all the instruments.

# C. Weissman named Artist of the Month for January at BBAA

Corinne Weissman, the Farmington Artist Club member who won first prize in the Palette and Brush Show in the Fisher Building this fall, has been chosen Artist of the Month for January by Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association (BBAA).

A show of her acrylics will be exhibited Jan. 5 to Feb. 2 in the BBAA's Retail and Sales Gallery, 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham.

She has most recently closed a one-man show for Visual Arts Association of Livonia.

With a degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and graduate study at University of Wisconsin, Mrs. Weissman has received seven awards during the past two years.

She describes her approach to painting

as "an attempt to put down on canvas my appreciation for the brilliant vibrancy of color around me."

"I lived through the Nazi and Russian occupations of Romania at a time when I was young enough to think of the bombs exploding in the sky as beautiful fireworks," she said. "I realize that this experience gave me an intense appreciation for every single, solitary day."

Visitors to Farmington Artists Club's shows and exhibits have seen Mrs. Weissman's work there in the past few years. Last June she was chosen by the club as Artist of the Month when her works hung in Farmington Hills Community Library's Quiet Room.

The BBAA is a community art center open to the public. Gallery hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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**AGEMY**

# Preschools join to form council

All nursery and day care centers in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area will soon be coordinated into a council as the result of efforts made by a sub-committee of Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA).

The Program Development Committee of FYA, whose job is to assess the needs of the community, then try to establish new programs to fill those needs, got the ball rolling late this fall for the new council.

"The credit goes to Linda Noble," said Madelyn Ryan, speaking of the committee's chairman.

"She felt that choosing a pre-school facility was a very difficult task for parents. Not much information is available unless parents seek out each place individually and research it on their own," she said.

The response from directors and teachers was enthusiastic, Mrs. Ryan reported. "They had never had a central coordinating body and no way of sharing ideas, goals and problems. They were also enthused about publishing a directory to be distributed to parents."

"There was no problem getting 10 volunteers to act as a steering committee."

**THE STREETING** committee's January agenda calls for a meeting to approve the bylaws and the completion of the directory.

By mid-March, the group plans to host a "Pre-School Fair," when all member schools will be represented and the directory will be distributed to the public.

Acting chairperson of the new council is Bev Ragland, from Child Culture Center.

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