Serpent horn trio spoofs serious music

The London Serpent Trio treated the holiday weekend audience at Somerset Mall to a torgue-in-check spoof of traditional music decorum. The musiclans play on authentic period horns aptly described by their name.

On this first U.S. tour, they're bringing that brand of British humor made popular by the 1930s BBC "Goon Show."

Show."

All three horns have an intriguing snake-shaped curve. While the serpent horn lacks the full tonal register of its cousin, the bassoon, the clever range of sound effects which these musiclans produce is both entertaining and baffling.

produce is both entertaining and baf-fling.

Mall manager Peg DeBois, acting as master of ceremonies, called the per-formance a rare event. "In all the world this trio is one-of-a-kind," she said.

review

A patriotic air, "Regnum Brittan-icus," launched an amusing historical tribute to the British soverign. It was a respectful statement done with preci-sion. This national song is revered by Britons.

"Greensleeves" was melodious with a regular glissando rhythm. Here the sounds were beauifully resonant.

In "On Wings of Song," the serpent horns took on a bassoon quality. Atonal cadences abound in this work, but the easy glides from one tone to another suggested a medieval mode.

THE AMAZING NONCHALANCE

with which the trio spun the tale of "My Grandfather's Clock" attested to their skillful command of this ana-chronistic instrument. Good percussive triple timing created firing squad im-pact and good audience rapport in "Sweet and Low."

In "A Hunting Song," the three horns competed in the flurry of the breakneck chase with fanfare and trilled flourishes. This song was stirring and harmonious and it was obvious that the trio relished playing it.

In Mozartian tradition, the trio per-formed a light skipping air, perfect for the spirit of the spring season. The ca-

dences were slightly unclear and the adagio lagged, but there were moments of inspired feeling.

The following work overlaid a continuo with counterpoint. The melody shone discretely and the continuo was pleasant. Most of the music played had been rearranged from the wealth of works for recorders and vocal scores. Bach's works are adaptable to this horn trio.

BESIDES UNDERSTATEMENT, ex-BESIDES UNDESSTATEMENT, ex-aggeration delty done was a forte of the musical jokes posed by The London Serpent Trio. The most important ingredient of this style of humor is the demand for dispassionate portrayal. Unaffectedly, they poked real fun at the music-lover and the performer who makes music such serious business.

It would have been helpful to have had a program and possibly some pro-gram notes to follow.

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BEST FOOT FORWARD By Sol Luft, D.P.M.

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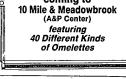
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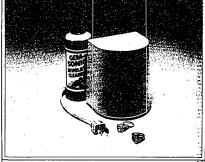
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