

# Staples manages 2 concerts in a day

By Mary Jane Doerr  
special writer

Only Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Concertmaster Gordon Staples would perform the "Thank You, Detroit" concert and the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D Major in the same afternoon.

The "Thank You, Detroit" concert was held at the Fox Theatre at 5 p.m. Sunday. Earlier, at 3 p.m., Staples had soloed with the Oakway Symphony Orchestra at Southfield-Lathrup High School, playing one of the difficult works in violin literature, the Tchaikovsky concerto.

from whom Staples' musical heritage descends, refused to play the work, calling it "too difficult and radical to play."

Staples' tempo for this rendition was brisk, playing the work's many arpeggios, double stops, pizzicatos and cadenzas with a style that never loses its melodic qualities. Despite the rapidity and technical complexity, Staples' notes were clearly defined.

THE CONCERTO opens with a simplistically deceptive lyrical melody in the orchestra followed by a melodic opening by Staples.

One would only expect the concerto was first dedicated by the composer in 1878, and

## review

the composer deliberately set out to create a work requiring the greatest dexterity that the musical form could allow.

Staples received an ovation after the first movement but later the audience did not give him any such opportunity as he did not take any break between the second and third movements.

The "Andante" or the second movement was the familiar nostalgic tune offering a calm reprieve for the violinist. But the action quickly moves back into the vir-

tuous qualities that mark the number.

In the midst of this technical entanglement springs forth the gentle Russian charm and appeal so well handled by Staples.

In his hands, Staples kept the tonal qualities that separated this performance from one of mere acrobatics. And, his "Salabue" violin, built long before the concerto was ever conceived, was never beaten in the process.

STAPLES SO captivated his audience and the

orchestra members that during his cadenza in the first movement all eyes were focused on him, and only with reluctance it seemed the orchestra members picked up their instruments to continue the concerto.

The concert was opened by Conductor Francesco Di Blasi and the orchestra with "Der Felschütz" by Weber, and the concerto was fittingly followed by Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony and a relatively new work from Ginastera, "Prelude to the Creole Faust."

The Weber provided the listeners with a spirited expectation of what was to follow, expectations that were not disappointed. Though Americans have little opportunity to see the entire German opera, this overture is a popular symphonic program selection.

The Symphony No. 8 in B Minor by Schubert is referred to as "unfinished" as it contains only two movements with no hint from the composer on the original manuscripts of an impending third and fourth. Did the composer lose interest in

the work and never finish it or is the work finished in the composer's mind? Whatever Schubert's intentions, he sent the manuscript to Anselm Huttenbrenner, a composer of the day. Not until 1885, 43 years after it was composed, was the symphony ever heard, as Huttenbrenner could not be persuaded to give up his treasure.

Concluding the concert, Di Blasi chose an interesting South American contemporary work which takes off on the theme from Gounod's "Faust."

## table talk

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