

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

People came in droves to see Maestro Gary Bertini, music advisor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, on the podium. Another attraction was Russian-born pianist Oxana Yablonskaya, who gave a superb performance of Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1.

HAVING TREMENDOUS technical ability, she conquered the difficult passages with relative ease, leaving suffi-

The orchestral support was adequate, except for the final passages. While these are, admittedly, supposed to be in loud fortissimo, some restraint on the part of the orchestra is essential, if the piano is to have a chance.

THE CROWNING composition on the program was Mahler's Symphony No. 1, which comprised the entire second half of the program. Bertini conducted two of Mahler's symphonies during the past regular season with impressive results. This makes him, in the minds of many listeners, an authority on Mahler.

In the third, slow movement, there was a orchestral mishap, which may be excusable due to the complex score, but the worst was yet to come.

The movement opens with a crashing dissonance, a device that isn't Mahler's original invention. Beethoven used it in the final movement of his ninth symphony. Given the complete pattern, the structure makes perfect sense.

The raving and thunderous applause, however, was convincing proof that Mahler's music isn't easily defeated.

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