

Harris-Moorhead

Dr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Harris of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Susan Marie to Jay Evan Moorhead, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Moorhead, former residents of Livonia.

The bride-to-be and her fiancé are both graduates of Michigan State University. She graduated with a degree from the university's nursing school and he with a degree in communications.

A May 1984 wedding is planned.



Zwers-Lietz

Mr. and Mrs. Francis G. Zwers of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Kathleen Marie to Robert Louis Lietz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lietz of Dearborn Heights.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School and Marquette University in Wilcoxon, employed as a physical therapist in Henry Ford Hospital.

Her fiancé is a graduate of St. Mary's High School and took two degrees from University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is employed as a mechanical engineer for Ford Motor Company.

An October wedding is planned in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.



Wayne State appoints interim music director

Leo M. Najar, conductor and violinist, has been appointed interim music director of the Wayne State University Symphony Orchestra for the 1983-84 year.

Robert Lawson, chair of the music department, made the announcement with the news that Najar replaces Valter Poole, conductor laureate, who has directed the orchestra since 1948.

Najar will hold auditions only 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7 in Room 210 of the Music Wing. Interested students may sign up for an audition in Room 105 of the Music Wing, 5451 Cass, Detroit.

Najar intends to have a chamber orchestra as well as a repertory orchestra to provide students with performance opportunities and the experience of reading standard symphonic literature.

A NATIVE of Grand Rapids, Najar has been music director of the Saginaw Symphony Orchestra since 1980. Before that he was on the faculty of Flint Institute of Music and assistant conductor of the Flint Symphony Orchestra.

In 1981 he received the first Helen M. Thompson award from the American Symphony League for his contributions as "conductor, educator and community spokesperson."

Besides his conducting and teaching, Najar produced weekly radio programs in Flint and wrote a newspaper column, "Conductor's Corner," for the Saginaw News.

He has bachelor's and master's de-

grees from the University of Michigan where he studied viola with Francis Budra. As a violinist, he has played with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the Toledo Opera and Michigan Opera Theater.

Registration taken at Mercy College

Registration runs through Aug. 31 for fall semester day, evening and weekend College classes at Mercy College. The term begins Tuesday, Sept. 6.

The college's admissions, academic counseling, financial aid and registrar's offices will remain open until 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, and Wednesday, Aug. 31.

Information about class offerings, registration and fees can be obtained by visiting or calling the admissions office at 592-6030. New students are urged to complete the application process as soon as possible in order to ensure admission by the time classes begin.

Mercy is a coed, private, four-year college that offers six degrees covering 67 programs of study.

The college is located at 8200 W. Outer Drive at the Southfield Freeway, just south of Seven Mile Road, in northwest Detroit.

Pianist Schiff delivers rewarding performance

By Avigdor Zarembo special writer

The Meadow Brook Music Festival is now drawing to an end — with this week left. The artistic director of the festival for the last few seasons, Neville Martinson, came here to conduct the final two weeks of this season.

While his contract should have lasted one more season, he had asked to be relieved of his duties here at the end of this one. Martinson, of course, has a very wide international reputation. His name is mostly associated with the Academy of the St. Martin-in-the-Fields, a prominent chamber ensemble that he founded.

His skill in conducting a large major orchestra, however, is not universally acknowledged. His performance on this latest program was an improvement over his performance last season, which was considered by many to be disappointing.

However, some flaws in this performance still tend to give some credence to his critics. THE PROGRAM consisted of the "Diversissement" by Ibert, a suite from "Der Rosenkavalier" by Richard Strauss and the first Piano Concerto by Tchaikovsky. The soloist in the celebrated Tchaikovsky concerto was the young, Hungarian-born pianist, Andras Schiff.

The two compositions in the first part of the program have something in common. Both are compositions by 20th-century composers that reflect a nostalgic reflection of a bygone era.

review

featuring Viennese waltzes.

For Ibert, this is a less characteristic manifestation, since he tended to be more modern in his other works. Strauss, of course, remained an unabashed romantic until his death in 1919.

Of the two compositions, the one by Strauss is, in my opinion, the superior composition. But the Ibert work received a far better performance. Several themes are well known, in particular the fun-poking quotation from Mendelssohn's Wedding March. The careful spirit of this composition was well reflected in this pleasant performance.

The Rosenkavalier suite, with its large-scale orchestra characteristics, failed to deliver the appropriate impact. Strauss, who was a master of large orchestration, had the unique ability to combine massive complexity with refinement. While the massiveness was there, at least in terms of decibels, the refinement was missing.

THIS WAS the case in the waltz following the introduction. But even in the more massive sections, the tonal spectrum that came through was narrow and deficient.

The Tchaikovsky concerto is, of course, a popular "war-horse," and it is a major challenge to make it not sound like one. In this respect, pianist Andras

Schiff was at least musically successful.

Technically, it is one of the most difficult pieces in the standard piano repertoire, and Schiff was having some difficulties in this area.

SOME of the compounded arpeggios and double octaves in the first movement contained wrong notes, and in the coda of the third movement, there were a couple of very rough landings. But there were substantial parts between the flaws that were very rewarding.

Schiff's performance underscored a uniquely refined and reflective approach to this characteristically rough composition, but with no lack of vigor and energy.

Among the other performances of this work during the last couple of seasons, the last one being during the previous Meadow Brook season with pianist Cecile Licad, the present performance was musically the best.

In spite of the deficient technique, it was evident that Schiff has substantial abilities in that department as well. This was simply not his best day.

All things considered, the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto is one of those compositions that could use some rest for the time being.



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