Ceccato conducts Ravel, Debussy

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IT IS no secret that Ceccato was a controversial figure during his tenure here as music director, and many musicians have mixed feelings about him. Without attempting to take sides in this controversy, this latest performance of his had several rewarding momenta. One of the exceptions was in the opening "Iberta." While the individual musicians certainly knew their parts and played their notes dutifully and with rythmic coordination, there seemed to be an absence of view of the total score. There was a general feeling of almiessness with the individual parts failing to blend into the whole.

But things improved considerably in the per-formance of the other pieces. Ravels: "Rappodie Espagnole" brought forth the Spanish character of the work. It could be said that it was occasionally too controlled, but there was a good unity of sound and a much higher sense of integration than evi-denced in the "Deria." In the second portion of the program, Debussy's short "Prelude a Papres mild" sounded stylistically authentic. In particular, principal fluttist Ervin Monroe should be commended for his excellent per-formance.

formance.

THE CLOSING work, Ravel's "La Valse," has been performed by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on numerous occasions, the latest one being in 1981.







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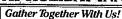
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