

S'field based orchestra plays for its neighbors

By Avigdor Zarnop
special writer

Those of us who are accustomed to listening to high professional performances by our Detroit Symphony Orchestra and visiting chamber groups tend to overlook the community oriented musical groups.

While there is no question that community oriented ensembles are no match against their more prestigious counterparts in terms of technical and musical ability, the importance of their role should not be underestimated.

For one thing, many prominent players have started their careers with such groups. Moreover, listening to such a performance can be a rewarding experience, even if one has to contend with imperfection.

THE SCANDINAVIAN Symphony

"The Ghost and Mrs. Muir" (1947). 230 Friday night on Ch. 50. Originally 104 minutes. TV time slot: 122 minutes.

"The Ghost and Mrs. Muir" is one of those frothy, eminently "enjoyable" films. It relies more on personality than plot, but with resplendent Gene Tierney and jaunty Rex Harrison in front of the camera, and Joseph L. Mankiewicz behind it, you're in store for something special. George Sanders, Anna Lee and a 7-year-old Natalie Wood co-star.

Rating: \$3.20.

"Bronco Bill" (1980). 11:45 p.m. Sunday on Ch. 4. Originally 119 minutes. TV time slot: 150 minutes.

Clint Eastwood's "Bronco Billy" is one of the most gently persuasive and engaging films of recent years. It may look like a parody at first, but soon it becomes apparent that Eastwood believes in his contemporary cowboy hero with all his heart, and viewers will too. Sandra Locke, Scatman Crothers and Sam Bottoms co-star in this one-of-a-kind film.

Rating: \$3.30.

Film series looks at the Holocaust

The Adat Shalom Adult Study Commission will host its second film series, "Europe: Before, During and After the Holocaust," featuring three films to be shown from 7-9:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings, Jan. 8, 15 and 22.

Dan Greenberg, Observer & Eccentric film critic and film instructor at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, will introduce the films and comment on their significance in depicting the Holocaust's impact on Europe and the world.

The free programs, held in the Congregation's Youth Lounge, 29001 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills, emphasize personal relationships before, during and after the Holocaust, rather than the mass tragedies of Nazi genocide.

The series opens Jan. 8 with a 1970 Israeli film, "The Dybbuk," and a short documentary filmed in a Lithuanian Jewish village in 1930. "The Dybbuk" stars David Opatoshu as the rabbi in Sholem Asch's tale of traditional life in the pre-Holocaust shtetl.

The second program, Jan. 15, highlights the series theme: unusual

Performance slated for deaf

Ridgedale Players' opening-night performance of "The Fantasticks" will be signed for the deaf. The show opens at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, at the theater at 204 W. Long Lake Road, Troy.

Performances continue at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Jan. 29. For ticket information call 644-8328.

This is the first time that Ridgedale has had translators for the deaf. It came about as the director, M. William Bradley, decided to have the deaf in the show use sign language.

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review

Orchestra has been an important musical ingredient of our community for over a half century. Its title is derived from the fact that it was founded and supported by the large Scandinavian community in the area at that time. But presently it is based in Southfield and consists of mostly Southfield area young students of varied backgrounds.

A select chamber orchestra, composed of members of the complete group as well as a few guest players, ushered in the new year with a benefit program at the Birmingham Unitarian Church. The attractive program consisted of works by Mozart, Bach, Elgar, and Grieg.

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

A ratings guide to the movies

Bad.....	\$1
Fair.....	\$2
Good.....	\$3
Excellent.....	\$4

"The Naked Edge" (1961). 12:30 p.m. Monday on Ch. 50. Originally 99 minutes. TV time slot: 141 minutes.

"Naked Edge" is noteworthy for a couple of reasons: It's Gary Cooper's last film and the only one in which Cooper plays a murderer - or is it? In other words, "Naked Edge" is a pretty good thriller. Deborah Kerr co-stars.

Rating: \$2.80.

"MR. HOBBS TAKES A Vacation" (1962). noon Tuesday on Ch. 9. Originally 118 minutes. TV time slot: 120 minutes.

Jimmy Stewart is at his bewildered best as Mr. Hobbs, whose family vacations provides all the relaxation of a day on the floor of the New York Stock

film

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personal relationships developing under the stress of Nazi persecution. In "Me and the Colonel," based on Franz Werfel's play, Danny Kaye and Curt Jurgens are an unlikely pair fleeing the Nazis.

The series concludes Jan. 29 with a 1976 French film, "Mr. Klein," featuring Alain Delon and Jeanne Moreau. For further information call 651-5100.

theater

After discussing this idea with Vickie Monroe, a teacher for the deaf at Lakshar High School in Bloomington Hills, the decision to sign the whole show was made.

This will be a test program for Ridgedale to determine if future shows will be translated for the deaf.

The performance was characterized by spirited enthusiasm and valid musical approach. Conductor Douglas Morrison has been with the orchestra for the past four years. The baton was passed to guest conductor David Levine for the performance of Bach's Double Violin Concerto.

Among the drawbacks was the fact that the sound wasn't sufficiently toned down for the small hall. This was particularly true in the first portion, consisting of the Mozart Divertimento K. 136 in D Major and the Bach concerto. But there was good cohesiveness most of the time.

The Mozart first and third movements were fresh and invigorating, but there was some dullness in the middle movement.

One of the highlights was achieved with the Bach concerto with a convincing performance and excellent phrasing by violinists Mary Stolberg and Tamara Goldstein. The latter is presently assistant concertmaster with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. The intimacy of the second movement was somewhat compromised by the overpowering sound.

BUT THERE WAS a good balance in

the solo parts, with a genuine effort to convey the authentic structure.

The highest point of unified sound was achieved in Elgar's Elegy. It featured some of the most refined playing with controlled crescendos.

The program concluded with Grieg's Holberg Suite, which was the "Scandinavian" component of the event. There were some weaknesses in this performance.

The most pronounced weakness was in the role of the second violin. This group, which demonstrated some flaws throughout the program, sounded frequently out of tune in this closing selection. But there were some good quali-

ties in the opening Prelude, the Air and the final Rigaudon.

If some of these evaluations seem harsh, it is because this performance is being measured here by the same strict standard that is being applied to professional orchestras.

As a community orchestra, the Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra certainly possesses a high potential and is among the better groups of its kind. Any group capable of providing an inspiring program even if not consistently perfect, must be on the right path. Occasional misses notwithstanding, this group definitely has a good sense of direction.

second runs
Tom Panzenhagen

Exchange. Maureen O'Hara, Marie Wilson, Laurie Peters, Reginald Gardiner, John Saxon and Evelyn Fagan provide ample support and laughs. Henry Koster, who specialized in such light-

weight merriment as "Take Her, She's Mine" and "The Singing Nun" in the '60s, directed the picture.
Rating: \$2.80.
"Modern Problems" (1981). 9 p.m.

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