

Area hospital hosts McKanna exhibition

A collection of 10 works in pastel, oil and charcoal by Jane McKanna will be on display through Aug. 6 at Henry Ford Hospital's West Bloomfield Center, 5777 W. Maple.

The exhibit is the second for McKanna at the center since the artist-of-the-month program was established four years ago.

Landscape had been her main subject matter in the past, but she has begun to enjoy the challenge of portraits. A charcoal portrait is among the collection on display.

McKanna of Trenton studied art at Monroe Community College and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. She is studying with Marion Zoner in Hilliard.

"I'm delighted to be returning to West Bloomfield for this exhibit, since many of my paintings have been purchased by people in this area," McKanna said.

For more information, call 681-4100.



Jane McKanna

Hough shines on a hot day

By Arvidor Zeromp
special writer

One of the most important ingredients in a music program is the content of the musical selections. That factor was certainly present in last week's Meadow Brook program, represented by Berlioz's masterpiece, "Symphonie Fantastique."

The first part of the program consisted of works of lesser magnitude — the overture to Der Freischütz by Weber and the second piano concerto in A Major by Liszt.

Guest pianist was the young, English-Born Stephen Hough. It was the second program conducted by Polish maestro Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, who had impressed his audience in an earlier program with Bruckner's "Symphony No. 3."

On this latter program, the smaller-scale piece received the most significant musical treatment. Weber's famous overture sounded well-coordinated with impressive orchestral sound and balance.

Hough is a pianist with formidable technique as well as artistic aptitude. The choice of Liszt's concerto, however, might not have been a wise one. This same concerto had been played by Andre Watts in one of the closing weeks of the past regular Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) season. Such proximity is not advisable even for outstanding masterpieces, and Liszt's work, in my opinion, does not rank among these.

While this composition has its subtle and inspired elements, its showy and flashy character seems to dominate even under the best circumstances. Considering these limitations, Hough extracted as much music out of this work as one could hope for, which is a considerable achievement.

"THE SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE" which was the most significant work on the program, also encountered the most problems. Since it had been

review

performed by the DSO many times in the past, the musicians are thoroughly familiar with the score and they certainly know their parts individually.

However, the hot and muggy weather apparently was taking its toll. In addition, scheduling this massive work in the same week with Bruckner's third symphony might have overloaded the circuits as well.

Among the most persistent flaws in this performance was lack of clear focus and balance in the more heavily orchestrated segments. This was the case in the first movement, for example, in which the climactic passages were rather chaotic.

In the final movement, the profound polyphonic design gave way to a scattered and fragmented sound. Some of the musical interpretation was also off the mark.

The waltz in the second movement sounded too much like a Viennese waltz in mood and texture, whereas some more gloomy shades were called for. On the other hand, the "March to the Gallows," which was performed at a rather slow tempo, had too much hopelessness and despair in it. A certain element of satire and sarcasm is a necessary ingredient in that movement.

One of the most important aspects of this composition is the elaborate mixture of conflicting moods, which tended to be lost in this performance. On the positive side was the tender expressiveness of the middle movement, with the very capable English horn solo played by Treva Wemble at the opening of this movement.

In the other movements, those passages which did not call for heavy orchestration were also ably performed for the most part.

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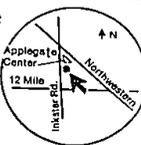


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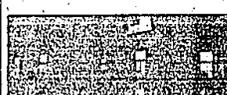
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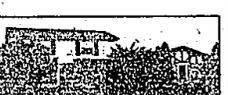
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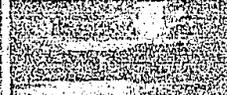
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