

Audience pays tribute to great conductor

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

We have all heard that one can find new and fresh approaches to old, well known compositions. This assertion itself is becoming a cliché. Even among the most devout supporters, there is a nagging feeling that there is only so much one can do with a standard, familiar work.

Occasionally, however, somebody is truly successful in applying the aforementioned cliché and putting it into practice. This was the case last Thursday at Ford Auditorium, when Herbert Blomstedt conducted the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on his third week here as a guest conductor.

The two items on the program consisted of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 and the Symphony No. 1 by Brahms. The solo pianist was the Czech born Rudolph Buchbinder, who had appeared with the DSO only once previously.

Art competition announced

Artists in all media are invited to enter work in the Helen DeRoy Competition at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus. Deadline for entering is Friday, Nov. 2 and the exhibition will open Thursday, Nov. 15.

A total of \$1,300 in prizes will be awarded with a \$600 purchase prize as first place.

Troy artist, Glen Michaels, will be the judge. For information and entry forms, call Kegham Tazian, 471-7732 at the Orchard Ridge campus.

Oakland County residents and former or present Oakland Community College students are welcome to enter. Fee is \$10.

difference between a top brand champagne and tap water treated with chemicals.

The running passages in the outer movements were remarkable in their shape and clarity. There was a sense of balance between the Mozartian lightness and the Beethovenian heaviness — the role of the left hand was noticeable, but not overbearing.

Between the fast movements, the largo was presented with its Romantic style singing, without getting bogged down in emotionalism. The orchestral passages were equally crisp and alert.

The Brahms Symphony never fails to create an impression even in an under average performance. This performance, however, provided more than a

mere sense of appreciation of a familiar masterpiece. This was one rare instance in which one could feel a sense of ecstatic elation.

Blomstedt, who proved to be capable of a gentle approach before the intermission, proved now to be equally adept with the raging and gushing aspects of this symphony. He didn't fail to deliver the intense style that this work calls for.

Even the second and third movements, which are more calm, sounded far from benign. The final movement reinforced the notion that this was one of the most profound statements of the Romantic era.

FOLLOWING the performance, another familiar

scene took place on the stage — something which has become an integral part of a Blomstedt appearance. When the audience was applauding, Blomstedt tried in vain to motion the orchestra to rise, in order to share the credit.

The orchestra, however, remained seated for most part, letting the conductor reap the award by himself. As the applause continued unabated for quite awhile, Blomstedt found the only effective way to terminate it. He grabbed concertmaster Gordon Staples and walked him off the stage, whereupon the rest of the orchestra followed.

Among the many guest conductors, Blomstedt is the only one who consistently receives such a demonstration of awe and respect.

review



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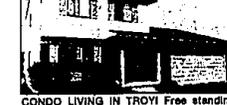
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