

Chamber Ensemble gives impressive concert

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

The Lyric Chamber Ensemble (LCE) presented this season's last ethnic program on Sunday. Following the two programs, which featured French and Italian cultures, the latest program was dedicated to Poland.

Most of us are aware of the various ethnic groups in our area. There are several other worthy ethnic cultural events around. One aspect that distinguishes this series is its universal appeal, which isn't restricted merely to the members of the ethnic groups involved. One certainly doesn't have to be Polish to enjoy and appreciate music by Chopin and Wieniawski. Beyond that, other aspects of the program can be equally enjoyed, even though these

might be less familiar to people in the audience.

Many people braved the Sunday's cold weather to attend the program. The musical part featured works by the two prominent Polish classical composers. At the piano was Fedora Horowitz, founder and artistic director of LCE. She accompanied violinist Geoffrey Applegate, from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, in the Wieniawski selections.

APPLEGATE, who has been also reviewed here for his part in the Italian program, proved again to be a most competent and skillful violinist. The selections consisted of the Mazurka No. 2 in G minor, the Romance from the Second Violin Concerto in D minor and the Scherzo-Tarantelle.



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Applegate's performance was clean and articulate. He was very expressive in the slow concerto movement. In the fast Scherzo, there were some minor slips but no serious loss of command and composure.

Horowitz had her significant pianistic role in Chopin's celebrated Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise. Her playing, her usual high standard, was impressive even after the Vladimir Ashkenazy recital two days earlier (re-

viewed elsewhere in this section).

Among several performances by other artists in this area of this work in recent years, this one offered the most sparkle and brilliance. She romped through the difficult portions of the Polonaise with authority and the few missed notes were inconspicuous.

The artistic portion of the program featured dances, reading of Polish poetry and singing of Polish songs. The

poems, read with clarity by Danuta Swornka, were also presented with inspired English translation by Jane Mordensky. The dances were presented by the Wawel Folk Ensemble, a group that is renowned for its authentic presentations both in the U.S. and in Europe. They have appeared in Poland and at the White House, among other places.

THE VARIOUS dances were introduced and explained by Maria Lewandowski, founder and director of the Wawel Folk Ensembles. The dancers, who were wearing authentic colorful costumes from various regions of Poland, presented dances from Silesia, Lublin, Greater Poland and the less familiar place of Nowy Sacz (pronounced Novy Sonch). In the Greater Poland

dance, members of the ensemble also demonstrated their skill at cracking riding whips.

Some Polish folk-songs were presented with the pleasant voice of Halina Wieniawski-Olszak, who has a wide background of appearances at comedy shows, as well as clubs and conventions. She has appearances on radio and television to her credit.

The background music for the dances, with accordion accompaniment, was taped. The loudspeakers were turned toward the audience and away from the stage. The sound was too loud for me, but, possibly not loud enough for the participants.

Overall, this program showed organization, taste and a high degree of entertainment. It was also a good learning experience.

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