

Jazz/classical mixed with skill

By Avigdor Zoromp
special writer

The Meadow Brook Festival International series presented a program guaranteed to attract a large audience.

The three popular artists were flutist Jean Pierre Rampal, jazz pianist and composer Claude Bolling and guitarist Alexandre Lagoya.

Rampal is, of course, one of the top two names associated with the flute. The other one, James Galway, appeared here a week earlier. Fortunately for the audience, the weather was much kinder to the Rampal.



Pianist Claude Bolling is equally adept at jazz and classical music forms as he showed at a recent Meadow Brook concert.

Much like his famous colleague, Rampal divides his career between the classical and the popular repertoire, but with more emphasis on the former. While he would relax occasionally the strict rigors of the purely classical music, he never ventures too far away from it.

The same applies to the other two artists on the program, except that the proportion between classical and jazz music is the reverse of Rampal's.

THE PROGRAM reflected this convergence of the styles. About half of the works were by Bolling, featuring various combinations of the instruments, supplemented with drums and double-bass. These works, which appeared in sequence that was different than the one on the printed program, alternated with works by other composers.

The only classical composer on the program was Ferdinando Carulli (1770-1841), whose few recorded works feature flute and guitar. The two Carulli serenades were enjoyable primarily because of the excellent treatment they received from the artists.

While Carulli was born in the same year as Beethoven, this seems to be the only thing they have in common.

I found the Bolling works by far the most inspired on the program. These were Concerto for Classical Guitar and Jazz Piano, movements from the Picnic Suite for Flute, Guitar and Jazz Piano and Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano.

Bolling is a remarkable pianist, in addition to his resourcefulness as a composer. These works, featuring jazz style and harmony on the surface, present classical styles and structures on a deeper level. One of the movements in the Concerto for Classical Guitar and Jazz Piano is based on a theme by Bach.

OTHER movements had good form and counterpoint and the Suite was impressive in combining a variety of styles. The part-writing in the "fugue" movement showed intimate awareness of the forms and structure of the baroque masters.

The other composer on the program was Ravi Shankar, born in India in 1920. His work, "The Enchanted Morning," was arranged by Rampal and Lagoya for flute and guitar. My exposure to this style isn't sufficient to fully appreciate it.

The response of the audience was warm and enthusiastic. Following the Bolling suite, which was the last item on the program, the applause was so intense that the artists repeated its final, fast movement.

review

Subsequently, Bolling responded to the relentless enthusiasm by playing some more of his jazz selections, including some popular tunes.

These artists proved in their program that it is, indeed, possible to feature works written in popular styles that are, at the same time, rich and significant in artistic content. In these latter categories, this program was vastly superior to the one a week earlier.

Elected to head Art of Poland Associates

Mitchell I. Kafarski of Bloomfield Hills was recently elected chairman of the Art of Poland Associates, an auxiliary of the Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Also elected were: two vice chairmen, Roman S. Gribba and Dr. Zofia Drodowska-Kafarski; Jacob I. Sobieral, secretary; and Mrs. Arthur H. Schultz, treasurer.

The objectives of the Art of Poland Associates are to assist the museum in developing and encouraging

interest in Polish art and culture, to attract members to the museum and to promote Polish art and culture in the community, sponsor lectures, exhibitions and tours and perpetuate the Polish Art Gallery at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Membership in the group is more than 250. A fund-raising event, Ball Polonais III, will be held Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Detroit Athletic Club. For information on Art of Poland Associates activities, call 642-2730 or 543-6740.



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Midland exhibition announced

Applications for the 27 Mid-Michigan Exhibition, Nov. 3-30 are available by writing to the Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 St. Andrews, Midland, 48640.

The juried, all-media exhibit is open to Michigan artists 18 and over. Only original work completed within the past two years will be accepted.

Paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, plastics,

ceramics, textiles, jewelry, enameling, metalwork, woodwork and photography are acceptable.

Rick Paul, assistant professor, creative arts department, Purdue University, is the juror. Two thousand dollars in prizes will be awarded including a \$750 best of show award from Michigan Foundation for the Arts.

Deadline for entries is Sept. 14.

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