

Young artist has great potential

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

This season marks a low ebb of musical activity. But this short period of hibernation came to a halt last weekend, with several events featuring the piano. One of these was a recital last Saturday at Cranbrook House.

The young, performing artist, Lourdes Santiago, who has just turned 18, may be known to some. She was among the finalists in the recent series of "Quest for Excellence." The occasion for this recital was a graduation from the Kingswood school in Cranbrook.

She is a student of Mischa Kottler, which does account for some artistic advantages. But, even the best advantages are no substitute for individual talent, of which she seems to have plenty.

In her recital, she played works by Bach, Beethoven, Menotti, Ravel and Chopin. While the performance

didn't turn out to be smooth sailing all the way, it did show impressive potential.

THE BACH PRELUDE and **FUGUE** in D Minor from Book 2 of the **Well-Tempered Clavier** were precise for the most part. The pace in the fugue was somewhat too fast to capture its structure, however.

The largest single item on the program was Beethoven's **Sonata Op. 2, No. 2**, in A Major. It is one of Beethoven's early sonatas that are mostly left in the shadow of his more popular sonatas.

SANTIAGO'S APPROACH presented this work with its Beethovenian intensity and sparkle. The well-focused octaves and short scales in the first movement, for example, were characteristic of a firm stylistic understanding. She had some lapses in the final movement, which were handled well under the circumstances. Some lapses also occurred in the toccata part of the "Ricercar and Toccata" by Menotti, but the ap-

proach to the work was impressive.



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proach to this little known work did come through.

Ravel's "Sonatine," a delightful and charmingly impressionistic work, featured delicate balance and tone color, even though the flow was occasionally interrupted by some misplaced notes.

Santiago produced luscious tone quality in the Chopin **Nocturne Op. 15, No. 2** in G Flat and an impressive technique in the scherzo **Op. 39, No. 3**.

THE CHOPIN STREAK continued through two encores, consisting of the "Black Key" Etude and the **Fantastic Impromptu**. While the indication of ability was there, these encores would have been best postponed for a better occasion.

In spite of the aforementioned drawbacks in the performance, Santiago's talent is impressive and convincing. These positive aspects of the performance were the dominant factors on this program.

There is clearly a room for artistic growth as well as technical development. But judging from this performance, there is little doubt that such growth will indeed take place.

Santiago plans to attend the Peabody Conservatory next year, to which she had received a scholarship. We wish her a rewarding career.

Get acquainted with garden friends

There are many small insects that sometimes are known as friends — other times call them what you will.

A good friend you may have met in the garden is the ladybug. Every day she eats small insects and helps to keep the situation in balance.

The praying mantis is your friend. She aids nature in keeping the army of insects, such as aphids, caterpillars, and beetles, under control. A member of the night patrol, a friend, lacewing, is on guard while you sleep, on the lookout for favorite foods — garden pests such as scales, aphids, mites and mealybugs.

Another close friend we all know is the wren. This small, humble bird has strong territorial instincts that you can use to advantage. For example, if you're bugged by pesky birds snatching your favorite berries and fruit, put the wren to work.

SIMPLY POST a small wren house close to your fruit or berry patch and these courageous little birds will chase practically every berry-thieving bird in sight.

Our friend the toad is a busy fellow. In just three months a single toad will eat up to 10,000 pests — 16

percent of which are the cutworms, which do a great deal of damage. Nearly 90 percent of his diet consists of insects and other small creatures — most of which are harmful to your garden.

The lowly earthworm is a friend. Will Rogers once said "Buy land — they're not making any more of it." But the earthworm manufactures precious topsoil constantly, producing his weight in fertile soil every 24 hours. Besides, he can burrow as far as six feet into the ground, aerating your soil, making drainage for rain, breaking up hardpan so your spring plowing is easier.

Plant a few marigolds in your garden and you'll have an eye-full of beauty. But, what you get is more than what you see. For the roots will exude a substance that keeps your soil free of pesky nematodes. And the flower emits a strong odor that is said to repel a wide variety of pests from beetles to rabbits. That's workin' hard!

WHAT DO YOU expect your mulch to do for you in your garden? This is a hard-working garden friend. Mulch is nearly magical — it



Alice Burlingame

practically eliminates weeding and hoeing, cuts your watering chores in half, protects plants against drought and frost and keeps your mature vegetables off the ground where they can rot. As if that weren't enough, it continually builds your soil fertility, a great insurance policy for old age.

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it you deposit the wastes of life — grass clippings, weeds and leaves — and from it you receive the rich natural fertility that is the source of life. You've got to marvel at nature's economy.

Alice Wessels Burlingame has degrees in horticulture and landscape architecture from Michigan State University. Considered a pioneer in horticultural therapy, she has been writing "Down to Earth" since 1949.



second runs
Hugh Gallagher

"The Last Picture Show" (1971), 11:30 p.m. Friday on Ch. 56. Originally 118 minutes. TV time slot: 135 minutes.

WHAT'S IT WORTH?
A ratings guide to the movies

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

seeing as a bit of history if nothing else.
Rating: \$3.50.

"Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold" (1958), 10 a.m. Saturday on Ch. 56. Originally 80 minutes. TV time slot: 120 minutes.

It was a sad day when the owners of the Lone Ranger copyright told Clayton Moore he couldn't wear the mask. Moore was the perfect television Lone Ranger. He had a barrel chest and a commanding but pleasant voice. He exuded the power and mystery of the famous lawman (created here in Detroit at WXYZ during radio's Golden Age). Jay Silverheels was equally well suited to the part of Tonto, the Lone Ranger's "faithful Indian companion." Yes, the part had a racist tinge to it but Silverheels was always intelligent, courageous and honest, a total break from Indian stereotypes. This movie is on a level with the television shows, pleasant Saturday afternoon diversion. But the characters matter, they are part of all our childhoods whether on radio or television. And they were good role models, defenders of a better life and a better way. Also the Lone Ranger never killed anyone.
Rating: \$2.25.

"The Wild One" (1954), 6:30 a.m. Saturday on Ch. 56. Originally 79 minutes. TV time slot: 105 minutes.

"What are you rebelling against, Johnny?" "What've you got?" Marlon Brando sneered out that famous reply and set a standard for angry young men everywhere. So what if this is just another western on motorcycles instead of horses. The important thing is that the bad guys are the good guys and we are never quite sure that Brando and his bikers might not be right about the world. Brando gave better performances but none so emblematic of his time as this one. It's worth

Rating: \$3.80.

Rating: \$3.80.

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