

New orchestra debuts in western suburbs

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

For those who like to spend their spare time attending musical events, there is no lack of opportunities. Among symphony orchestras alone, there are numerous community orchestras, besides the top-ranking Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Now, another musical entity has come into being. The Greater Michigan Orchestra is being inaugurated by TAAG, which stands for The Arts Alliance Group.

Given the number of existing orchestras, would another one satisfy a need that hasn't been met? That depends on the type and scope of the new orchestra. "There is nothing new under the sun," said the Biblical preacher. This, however, doesn't preclude the old and familiar from being innovative.

The Greater Michigan Orchestra

seems to have embodied the old and the new in an optimal combination. The old and familiar represents years of highly qualified professional experience. There are many Detroit Symphony Orchestra members on the list of participating musicians. The rest of the performers are also professional musicians.

THIS GROUP, under music director Carl Karpelien, presented a special inaugural concert in a banquet hall of the Novi Hilton last Sunday. The event was attended by the many sponsors and community leaders.

It is strongly felt that there is a demand in the northwestern suburbs for such an orchestra and a sufficiently large audience could be attracted to justify such a new organization and the large financial outlay that such an undertaking inevitably implies. The presence of the many

review

enthusiastic sponsors that evening tended to bear this out.

Karpelien is a highly trained Detroit-born conductor. His studies took him to Vienna, where he worked with Herbert von Karajan. His latest position as music director was with the Greater Palm Beach Orchestra in Florida.

Karpelien is evidently a serious, highly qualified conductor who should prove an asset to this highly professional organization.

Another familiar face was that of Misha Rachlevsky, known to many for his extensive chamber music activities and in particular as the founder and director of Renaissance

City Chamber Players.

On this occasion he was the soloist in Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 ("Turkish").

OTHER WORKS on the program were Weber's Overture to "Der Freischütz," Pavane by Faure, Four Slavonic Dances by Dvorak, Strauss' Emperor Waltz and segments from Smetana's music from "The Bartered Bride."

To be sure, the Hilton banquet hall wasn't designed with classical concerts in mind.

This was particularly noticeable in the Faure and the Mozart works, in which the sound of cool air rushing through the air conditioning ducts added a dimension to the harmony that didn't exist when the composers were alive. But this didn't prove to be enough to halt the magic of the musical sounds.

The audience's response was extremely warm and enthusiastic. This

was especially true with those selections most familiar to them and those that seemed to blend with the cabaret concert atmosphere — tables decked with wine and champagne. The "Champagne Polka" would have been a suitable encore choice, but it didn't come to pass.

While it would be extremely difficult to add yet another series to an already heavy concert schedule, it is comforting to know that the Greater Michigan Orchestra concerts won't clash with those of the DSO.

Avigdor Zaromp, born in Poland, educated in Israel and the United States, has a doctorate in math and has studied piano, music theory and history.



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Staff photos by
Rick Smith



TAAG concertgoers included Don and Patti Holgesen of Birmingham.



TAAG board chairman Fred Fehlauer congratulates soloist Misha Rachlevsky on his performance of the Mozart violin concerto.



Botty Jean Awrey of Farmington Hills and Ken Neuman of Franklin were among the guests at the inaugural concert. Awrey is on the TAAG board of directors.

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