

Program features works of Jewish composers

Adat Shalom Synagogue is presenting a special series called "The Jewish Contribution to the Performing Arts" and the "Jewish Musical Legacy" part was presented last Thursday Evening.

If the object was a program featuring major Jewish performers, almost any random list from among the performing celebrities would do. Booking them for a performance and paying their fees would be, of course, a more formidable problem.

This series is mostly about music written by Jewish composers. Composition is one of the few areas in classical music where Jews do not dominate. But even though there was no Jewish Beethoven, some of the contributions in this category are significant.

The program was presented by a group of Soviet emigre musicians who are talented, local artists — flutist Nikolai Lemberg, pianist Vladislav Kovalsky, pianist-composer Is-

rael Kreman and his pianist wife, Edwards.

Kreman, who is completing his doctoral studies, is on the faculty of U-M.

LEMBERG AND KOVALSKY have appeared here in chamber music events. They have also formed the Michigan Classical Music Society, a music teaching school.

The group's size precluded the music of possibly the most towering Jewish composer — Mahler. Within severe limitations of scope, the program offered various attractive works. Some of these were by known composers — Mendelssohn, Gershwin, Bloch and Shostakovich.

If you wonder why Shostakovich is included in a list of Jewish composers, it was because his work, "From Jewish Folk Poetry," was among the most entertaining selections on the program.

Some names were obscure, ba-



Avigdor Zoramp

roque composer, Salomín Rossi, and a Soviet composer, Nikolai Rakov, whose suite in three movements for flute and piano is in early 20th-century style.

Among the more established contemporary composers is David Aram, whose exotic flute solo piece "Zohar" was most captivating.

Two names on the list have a special significance for local audiences — Kreman and the late Julius Chajes, composer, pianist and teacher whose artistic contributions here are invaluable. The refreshing two-movements from his flute and piano

sonata provided a sample of his music, replete with Israeli idioms.

ISRAEL KREMAN, commentator for flute and piano, also performed his own piano sonata in three movements.

His own piano sonata in three movements is among the last works he composed in the Soviet Union before his departure in 1978. It is based on Jewish idioms and shows a clear influence of his Russian environment, with stylistic traces of some of

the Russian masters of this century. Kreman's music definitely deserves attention. One of his string quartets will be performed this coming Sunday on the Detroit Contemporary Chamber Ensemble series at 3

p.m. Sunday at Christ Church Cranbrook.

Few challenges can match that of becoming an established composer. It is hoped Kreman's efforts will bear fruit.

Balalaika group marks 60th year

The Balalaika Orchestra of Detroit celebrates its 60th anniversary with a performance at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, in Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit.

Under the direction of William Golden, the group is the oldest balalaika orchestra outside of the Soviet Union today. Organized in 1928 by Russians in Detroit, the orchestra has continued the musical

heritage of old Russian since then.

Tickets are \$12, loge, \$10, main floor and are available at the door or in advance by mail. Make checks payable and mail to Balalaika Orchestra, 19500 Riverside, Birmingham, 48009. Phone orders can be made between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. by calling 833-3700. Tickets are available at Ticket World, 423-6866.

Chajes concerts begin season

Music of Bach and Julius Chajes will be performed for the opening program of the 1988-89 Julius Chajes Music Fund concerts set for 8:30 p.m. Sunday, in the Anton DeJoy Theater of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit.

The concert features Maria Cimarelli, soprano, Robert Sorton, oboe, Benedetta Gray, cello, and David Wilson, piano and harpsichord.

Cimarelli was a guest artist during the Detroit Symphony Orchestra/International Schubert Festival and Brahms Festival. She appeared in concerts in Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall and has recorded for London Records under the direction of Antal Dorati. She is performing with Michigan Opera Theatre's Overture to Opera company and is featured as Gretel in a touring production of "Hansel and Gretel."

Sorton, assistant principal violinist with the DSO, performs in chamber music recitals. He's appeared with the Miami Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra,

Canton Symphony and others. In addition to teaching private classes, he's taught at the North Carolina Governor's School, Willoughby School of Fine Arts, Eastern Music Festival and the Florida International University.

Also during the first concert of the season, Ralph B. Stillwell, photographer, will present the Jewish Community Center with a special memorial tribute to Julius Chajes, who conducted the Center Symphony Orchestra for 45 years before his death.

For ticket information, call the Center at 661-1000, Ext. 335.

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