

Beaux Arts Trio remains at top

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

Count on the Chamber Music Society to book the cream of the chamber groups. The latest in that series was the Beaux Arts Trio.

If chamber ensembles could be compared to food (as you may have realized by now, food and wine are among my favorite comparisons), the Beaux Arts Trio is a filet mignon.

This, of course, isn't meant to downplay the quality of other groups that still could be compared to good wines.

But the Beaux Arts is now in its 31st year with its original members and without the group, chamber music wouldn't be the same.

Its members are pianist Menahem Pressler, violinist Isidore Cohen and cellist Bernard Greenhouse. These talented artists are highly attuned to each other and this produced a strong sense of integrity. In fact, this is true even if a particular performance doesn't reach the ultimate level.

Indeed, this latest program, compared to others they have given, had certain flaws and deficiencies. But, everything is relative. This trio's lower level is still very high.

The program consisted of the Trio in D minor, Hoboken XV No. 23 by Haydn, the Trio in A minor by Ravel, and the Trio No. 2 in E Flat Major by Schubert.

The opening Haydn work was the best in terms of stylistic integrity and freshness. The radiating Haydn warmth set the tone. It had the lightness that didn't compromise the substance. In the other two works, there were signs of fatigue in some of the movements.

The Ravel trio is an excellent work that is seldom performed. Ravel, a first class orchestrator, managed to incorporate richness and wide variety of texture even in intimate trio form.

Much of this richness came through, but some of it sounded clouded. In the faster movements, some of the phrases reminded me of a bird trying to fly with wet wings — ultimately succeeding, but not before some abortive efforts. The slow movement bogged down.

The Schubert trio lacked momentum in the first and final movements, as reflected in the sluggish tempos. It is, to be sure, a work that is permeated with a sense of doom and melancholy even in the brighter movements, and a correct stylistic performance should reflect this aspect.

Following such a subdued performance of the first movement, the full contrast with the gloomy second movement wasn't there. The second, followed by the more vigorous scherzo, was the best part.

Even with these drawbacks, I found the program as a whole to be extremely rewarding. While improvement is possible, it would take a group the caliber of the Beaux Arts Trio to do so.



Avigdor Zaromp

Seeking artists for FinnFest '87

Metropolitan area Finns are already planning FinnFest '87, a sporting and cultural festival in celebration of Michigan's 150th anniversary.

As a part of the cultural events the FinnFest committee will hold an exhibition of Finnish art and crafts. Finnish Americans interested in displaying or demonstrating their art skills should write to:

FinnFest '87, Arts and Craft Committee chairman, P.O. Box 169, Farmington, 48024.

FinnFest '87 will be held at Schoolcraft College of Livonia, which is the midst of the largest concentration of Finns in southern Michigan.

Quartet is guest

The Colorado Quartet will make its Detroit debut on the Chamber Music Society series at Orchestra Hall at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21.

In 1983 within a period of 10 days the Quartet won the Naumburg Chamber Music award and the Banff International String Quartet competition.

Since then the group has performed on chamber programs in North and South America, Europe and the Far East.

James Van Demark, bass, will join the Quartet in Dvorak's String Quartet in G, Op. 77. Also on the program are the Haydn Quartet in D, Op. 33, No. 6 and the Quartet No. 5 in B Flat, Op. 92 by Shostakovich.

For ticket information, call Orchestra Hall Box Office, 833-3700.

Giving free concert

The five-member Jazz Guitar Ensemble of Oakland University will give a free concert at 8 p.m. Monday in Varnor Recital Hall.

Ensemble director, Steven Carrier received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Oakland University and remained on as classical and jazz guitar instructor. He has performed with the J.C. Heard Orchestra, the Star Theater of Flint, the Gary Blumer Jazz Quartet, the Austin Moro Band and Johnny Trudell.

The concert is sponsored by the Center for the Arts and the department of music, theater and dance. For information, call 370-3013, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.



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Auto Dealers hold 3rd writing contest

The third short story contest, conducted by the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, sponsors of the Detroit Auto Show, is now underway.

Entries must be received no later than Friday, Nov. 28. First prize is \$1,000 with a \$500 second prize and \$250 third.

This year, the association created a second contest exclusively for high school students. These will be judged separately with first, second and third prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100.

First prize stories in both categories will be published in the Auto Show program.

The contest is open to all Michigan residents except employees of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association and their families. There is no theme requirement, but entries must be fiction, in good taste, and not exceed 2,500 words.

A complete list of rules is available from the dealer association. The 1987 Detroit Auto Show runs Jan. 10-18 at Cobo Hall.

Entries must be titled, typewritten and double-spaced. The author's name and address must be on the first page with the name only on each subsequent page. High school students should include the name of their school, English teacher and grade in which they are enrolled. Manuscripts won't be returned.

Send manuscripts to Detroit Auto Dealers Association, 1800 W. Big Beaver, Troy 48064.

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