

# Kodaly Quartet shows skill, versatility

By Avigdor Zaromp  
special writer

The latest chamber music delight took place at the Cranbrook House last week. The Cranbrook Music Guild presented the Kodaly String Quartet in a program of quartets by Mozart, Kodaly and Brahms.

The Kodaly Quartet is a group of gifted Hungarian musicians who have a thorough knowledge of chamber works by Hungarian composers, in addition to their impressive standard repertoire.

The members are violinists Attila

Falvai and Tamas Szabo, violinist Gabor Fias and cellist Janos Devich. Cellist Thomas Koo, assistant director of the Hungarian National Orchestra, substituted for Devich on this program.

While anybody with the first name Attila is bound to conjure an association with the infamous historical figure, such a thought is quickly erased by his articulate playing (but it may explain the fact that his hair is longer than that of the rest of the group).

The group's manner of performance is compelling in its intensity, and its full-bodied sound is bound to



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penetrate the senses of even a most casual listener. In the opening Mozart Quartet in B Flat Major No. 22, K 589, I felt a certain mismatch between the group's temperament and the composer's style.

There was too much of an attempt to force the music, which consequently lost some of its natural charm. This was especially true in the outer movements, in which the excessively spicy performance

seemed to have too much paprika.

These "hot ingredients" proved to be the most enticing feature in the other two works, however. The seldom performed Quartet No. 2 Op. 10 provided an insight into the music of this resourceful composer, known here primarily through his "Harry James" Suite. The artists clearly felt at home with the seductive themes alternating with the intricate pizzicatos.

The Brahms Quartet No. 1 Op. 51 in C Minor is one of those chamber treasures that deserves more frequent exposure. Brahms' chamber

music incorporates the seemingly irreconcilable extremes of the broad orchestral sound and the intimate aspect of a small group.

The emphasis in this quartet is on the latter. In this performance, there was the right balance of these ingredients. The tenderness of the middle movement was in direct contrast and proportion to the others. The main body of the final movement, with its climactic peaks, still left enough room for the surging final coda, leaving the audience with a keen sense of artistic satisfaction.

## Guests join orchestra for 'Nutcracker' ballet

Pontiac-Oakland Symphony and the Oakland Festival Ballet Company will combine talents for Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" Ballet on Nov. 21, 22, 23, at the Pontiac Central High School Auditorium.

Performances will begin at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and senior citizens.

Linda Kintz and Mark Mejia will be the guest artists. They were the only dancers from the United States to win both prizes and recognition at the 10th International Ballet competitions.

will pay tribute to its past leaders and acknowledge their work and dedication.

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