

Salonen's conducting deserves recognition

The role of the performing artist has never been easy to define. One of the prevailing theories is that the artist's role is to express the composer's wishes in the most authentic way possible.

At the opposite end, the artist is also seen as a creator, having almost unlimited liberty of interpretation and approach. Stylistic authenticity is frequently sacrificed in favor of spontaneous freedom of expression.

The more gifted artists are those who know how to reconcile these two approaches combining both to portray the work in the best possible manner. Although this, in itself, sounds like an obviously trivial statement, there is a problem in maintaining — defining that "best possible" concept.

The latest Detroit Symphony Or-



Avigdor Zaromp

chestra program presented some of the better results of such an approach. The two guests were Esa-Pekka Salonen, conductor, and Ulf Hoelscher, violinist.

Salonen, born in Finland in 1928, has already conducted several major European orchestras with impressive results. This latest program was his DSO debut. If his name is unfamiliar, this may be only temporary.

Judging by this event, he deserves to become a household word among those who pay attention to classical music.

The German-born Ulf Hoelscher, is better known to audiences here, following his previous DSO appearance in 1982.

HE CAME to perform the Violin Concerto in D Major by Korngold. The two orchestral works on the program were Haydn's Symphony No. 99 and the Symphony No. 5 by Sibelius. Both wrote symphonies that are performed on a more regular basis. Korngold's work in the same key as the violin concerto by Beethoven, Brahms and Tchaikovsky, has very little in common with those works otherwise.

The artistic approach on this pro-

gram was, at times, more remarkable than the music itself. This is especially true with the Korngold concerto. Korngold is known for his film scores and this concerto contains patches of music from various films. This was very apparent in a performance I heard at Meadow Brook a couple of seasons back.

In this performance, however, the work was treated like a piece of music rather than a film score, and there was accurate intonation with well shaped phrases, the kind of dynamics that are more associated with the violin concerto mentioned above. Korngold's work gained respectability with this performance.

The Haydn symphony, which isn't one of his best, sounded shiny and

brilliant, which in this performance had the tempo of a scherzo.

SALONEN EVIDENTLY felt at home with the lavishly orchestrated Sibelius symphony. He was aware and in control of every detail of this intricate score. Many seemingly repetitious phrases of this work came

through rejuvenated through their continuous transformations.

In both of the symphonies Salonen added some liveliness of his own by his bly mellow with age. There is, of course, nothing wrong with excessive exuberance as long as it is accompanied by good results. This was, indeed, the case on this program.



Pine Grove ready for holidays

Pine Grove, home of Governor Moses Wisner, 405 Oakland Ave., Pontiac, will be decorated for the holidays and open for visitors noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. The Victorian Open House, noon to 4 p.m., will include a tour, musical children's programs, mulled cider and holiday cookies. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

Holiday tours (by appointment) will be given 9

a.m. to 4 p.m. today and tomorrow and Dec. 8-12.

For appointment, call 338-6722.

Pine Grove, a national and state historic site, a gentleman's farm with a lovely Greek Revival house, was the office as well as home for Moses Wisner when he served as governor 1859-1858. It is one of two Michigan governor's homes open to the public and contains many Wisner family furnishings.

On the grounds are a restored root cellar,

smokehouse, summer kitchen and carriage house museum. The house is also headquarters for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

Volunteers put up the holiday decorations yesterday. They trimmed a tree with Victorian ornaments, put up the fresh evergreen roping and hung many wreaths. Decorations will come down Dec. 15 when the tours end.

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Chamber Winds to perform in concert

"Holiday Brass" with Detroit Chamber Winds, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Christ Church Cranbrook. This holiday program will include works by Byrd, Gabrieli, Handel and Britten.

As a special treat, Detroit Chamber Winds will perform an unusual arrangement of Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust." Music appropriate for the season and a sing-along will conclude the evening's performance. "Holiday Brass" features musi-

cians from the Detroit, Michigan Opera Theatre, Grand Rapids and Toledo Symphony Orchestra. In the past year, Detroit Chamber Winds performed in New York's Carnegie Recital Hall, Detroit's Orchestra Hall as well as in Ann Arbor, Alpena, Mackinac Island, Toledo, Gaylord and Stevens Point.

Tickets for "Holiday Brass" are \$8 and \$6 for students and senior citizens. For tickets, call 851-8DCW.

Singing Christmas songs

The Marygrove Chamber Singers, directed by James Turner, will present "A World of Carols" at 4 p.m. Sunday in the college's Tudor-gothic Sacred Heart Chapel in the Liberal Arts Building.

Tickets, \$5 general admission and \$2.50 for seniors and students, will be available at the door.

chestra harpist Jane Rosenon and organist Huw Lewis, the Marygrove Singers will perform Benjamin Britten's holiday classic, "A Ceremony of Carols." Mendelssohn's beloved "Three Shall A Star Come Out of Jacob" and Three Flemish Carols as well as traditional Italian, Spanish, Irish and Appalachian Christmas songs.

Marygrove College is at 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit.

Church show offers crafts

Central Woodward Christian Church, 3555 W. Big Beaver, Troy, will hold its annual craft show, "Santa's Studio," 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Included will be handcrafted items in wood, ceramics and fabric plus such things as dried flowers, Cabbage Patch doll clothes and lapidary art.

Lunch and take-home treats from Mrs. Claus's country kitchen will be available. No admission charge.

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