

# Pianist Laura Kargul is a true artist

By Avigdor Zaromp  
special writer

Among gifted people in our area, Laura Kargul should be listed among the more prominent. She recently gave a recital at the Metropolitan Methodist Church of Detroit.

The only previous occasion on which I heard Kargul perform was at the Detroit Institute of Arts a couple of months ago. While there are many in our area who play the piano fairly well, Kargul is one of the few who offer more than an impressive facility with the instrument. She can be considered a true artist.

Having studied at the University of Michigan under prestigious teachers, Kargul has performed in many places, including some of the famous concert halls in Europe. Her plans to participate in the Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow were cancelled following the nuclear reactor incident in Chernobyl.

On this latest program, Kargul performed works by Chopin, Beethoven, Liszt, Rachmaninoff and Ravel. In all of these diverse works, she demonstrated an impressive level of stylistic perception and artistic integrity. The opening Chopin Polonaise in F Sharp Minor tended to be somewhat too earth bound in my opinion. But the music started soaring with Scherzo in E major and gained in stature as the program progressed.

BEETHOVEN'S "WALDSTEIN" SONATA is

one of his more popular ones, attempted by many but performed well by few. Kargul conquered the fast runs and the complicated internal trills in the last movement convincingly. But even in the most challenging technical passages, the overall perspective of the phrase was never lost. In the few spots that were relatively weak, for example, in the first movement's development, the striving for artistic goal and correct form was never compromised.

The second portion of the program featured studies by Liszt and Rachmaninoff. The ultimate was achieved in Ravel's "La Valse," the concluding item on the program. This work is best known in its orchestral form. Ravel also wrote a two-piano version and sketched a single piano version.

Kargul formed that sketch into a complete arrangement and had performed this version at her previous recital at the DIA. I found this latest performance more encompassing and compelling. The intricate structure, fit for an entire orchestra, sounded fully represented here, and for the most part, one was hardly aware of the lack of orchestral resources. In fact, I found certain aspects of this performance more acoustically encompassing than some of the lesser orchestral performances I heard.

THE ARTISTIC CONVICTION seemed to have produced an extra dimension that would be hard to explain as simply as 10 human fingers hitting a single keyboard.

Kargul performed on a Bechstein instrument

that was recently acquired through contributions from the congregation. This relatively new instrument needs to be played more until it settles. Its tone quality is potentially superb, but occasionally it is not ideally focused.

Such deficiencies, however, were seldom noticeable in Kargul's performance. The art of Laura Kargul is of the kind that deserves high attention.



Avigdor  
Zaromp



The highlight of pianist Laura Kargul's program last week was an arrangement of "La Valse" by Ravel which she did from the composer's sketch of a version for one piano.

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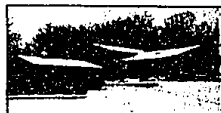
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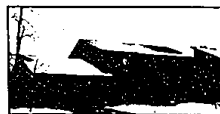
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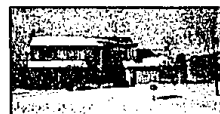
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