

Vivace Series closes in style

By Avigdor Zoromp
special writer

Among the outstanding chamber groups in this country, the New World String Quartet is one whose impact is increasing. Formed in 1977, it has performed across the country in several prominent festivals. Among the group's credits is the Namburg Chamber Music award in 1979.

Its members consist of violinists Curtis Macomber and Valia Armstrong, violist Robert Dan and cellist Ross Harbough, who have impressive individual achievements.

The Quartet performed at Birmingham Temple, as part of the Vivace Series, which consistently provides top quality musical events. It was New World String Quartet's third appearance at Birmingham Temple in consecutive years.

The works on the program — quartets by Mendelssohn, Bartok and Schubert — are delightful treasures of the chamber repertoire. These and the variety of style made this program among the most esthetically pleasing of the season.

The commitment of the New World Quartet to the art of fine music is truly catching. They have the technique, to be sure. But this is a basic requirement of any group that expects to get steady audiences. Their high level of cooperation and effort to reach an integrated sound is one of this

review

group's distinguishing features. Most importantly, they project stylistic appreciation and understanding.

THE MENDELSSOHN QUARTET in A Minor is a youthful work, written shortly after Beethoven's death. Mendelssohn's style is known for its carefree nature and, at least in the earlier works, its youthful shine. These elements, which are present in this quartet, are supplemented by subtle drama, which takes more effort to uncover and bring forth.

The intense tremolo passages in the last movement, at the hands of this group, amounted to more than mere decoration.

The Quartet No. 4 by Bartok, the most often performed of the collection of six, is dissonant even by today's standards.

A PERFORMANCE of such work can make the difference between disturbing sounds and the hot, spicy ingredients that can make things so much more appetizing. While I didn't attempt to find

out, it seems that at least two in this group, if not all of them, may be fond of paprika and hot peppers.

Schubert's Quartet, "Death and the Maiden," is one of the most moving works in the chamber repertoire and is the most often performed of the selections on the program. Schubert's soulful themes tinged with melancholy sprang from the instruments of the players and left their mark on the audience. There are many competent performances of this work by distinguished musicians. This was among the few that was capable of leaving the audience transformed, rather than merely impressed.

Birmingham Temple should be proud of its Vivace Series.



Sketches on exhibit

"Michigan Then and Now" is the title of an exhibit of sketches by Constance Powell, which will be in the lobby of the Fisher Building May 19-31. She will be demonstrating there at noon Tuesday, May 19. At that time she will unveil her newly completed pen and ink sketch of the Fisher Building Grand Arcade. For information about her work, call Powell, 399-9081.

Spring dance concerts slated

Harbinger Dance Company is completing rehearsals for its annual spring concerts 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

Gayle Eubanks, Harbinger's interim artistic director said, "We always look forward to our performance in Smith Theatre; the space is simple and intimate and is always a delight for dance enthusiasts."

A new work by Philip Mills will premiere at these concerts, she said. It is a tribute to the 1988 Figure Skating Olympics in Calgary, Canada.

Mills has extensive performing and choreographic experience and is ballet master at

Harbinger.

Other works to be performed are Laurie Eisenhower's "Waiting for the Echo," Lisa Nowak's "Ritual" plus other works from Harbinger's repertoire.

The concerts are presented in cooperation

with Oakland Community College/Orchard Ridge Campus, where Harbinger has been in residence since 1981 and through a grant from Macabees Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Southfield.

Tickets are \$10 and

\$8 for students and senior citizens. An optional dinner preceding the concert for Saturday's residence is available. Tickets for the dinner/concert are \$20. For information, call the Smith Theatre box office at 471-7700.

REMEMBER WHEN YOUR NEIGHBORS WERE ALSO YOUR FRIENDS?



Do you remember when your next-door-neighbors were more than just people who lived next door? They were your friends, people you could count on for help and companionship. But over the years, the neighborhood has changed. Your friends have moved away, and things just don't seem the same.

Now you can recapture that neighborhood feeling at Franklin Club Senior Apartments. You'll enjoy the friendship of people who share your memories and understand your problems. You'll have people you can count on.

And, don't forget all the special features you can have for one low monthly fee — like full meal housekeeping, linens, transportation — for as little or as much independence as you desire. Plus, daily activities and gracious surroundings. All waiting for you at Franklin Club Senior Apartments. Call today for an eye-opening inspection tour. But hurry, you have friends waiting for you!

FRANKLIN CLUB APARTMENTS
313-353-2810

28301 Franklin Road • Southfield, MI 48034 • Richard P. Ryan, Manager



THE NEW COLLECTION HAS ARRIVED



BRAND NEW FEATURES:

- ◆ Soaring ceilings in many areas
- ◆ Open, spacious entertainment area
- ◆ Increased living space
- ◆ Walk-out lower levels to treed setting
- ◆ Private outdoor decks
- ◆ Redesigned luxury bathrooms
- ◆ Skylights in the great room and bathroom
- ◆ Larger walk-in closets

Priced from \$134,990

Just South of Walnut Lake Road • 1 block West of Drake Road in West Bloomfield

Presented by:

Herbert Lawson, Inc.

Phone: 661-0338 • 557-2080

Open daily and weekends 12-5 • Closed Thursday



We want you to know we're here for you

America's leading home mortgage banker just opened an office in Troy.

Before you buy your new home, come see us in ours. Because even though we've just rolled into town, we're no strangers to the home mortgage business.

The friendly folks at our new Troy office can help you arrange the financing for your new home. With many different loans to choose from. At interest rates you'll

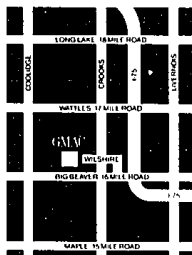
find very attractive.

If you're too busy to stop by, call the GMAC Mortgage Hotline at 313-696-8537.

We'll tell you our current rates. And answer any other questions you might have.

It's hard to be humble about our new abode. So we won't be.

We think our Troy office is top-notch. And we're quite proud to be serving Oakland County where it lives.



Official Sponsor
of America's DreamSM
GMAC
Mortgage

GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, 1050 WILSHIRE DRIVE, SUITE 150, TROY, MI 48064. (313) 696-8537.

save energy

Use your dishwasher only when it is full. Turn it off when the final wash cycle is completed and open the door. Your dishes will air-dry. It's best to use your dishwasher in the cool of the evening.