

Chajes's music moves past nostalgia 'Our Town' competition

By Avigdor Zoromp
special writer

The Jewish Community Center classical series is dedicated to the memory of Julius Chajes.

During his long career here, Chajes was a pianist, teacher, conductor and composer. Many of his compositions have a devoted following.

His string quartet on this program was written during the late '30s, when the clouds of World War II were beginning to gather.

Chajes's works invariably reflect an Israeli idiom. This element was present already in the British-ruled Palestine, before it became the State of Israel in 1948.

While there are many who can imitate national idioms, there are few who can enhance them with the more refined aspects of musical art. Chajes's music qualifies as one of the more outstanding examples of this enhancement. The string quartet presented has appeal beyond pure nostalgia. It reflects good form and a high degree of musical training that is universal and independent of any

review

particular native or national orientation.

It is for this reason that the Ventura String Quartet, whose members were not exposed to Israeli music and folklore to any extent, were nevertheless successful in performing this work so appealingly.

The Ventura String Quartet consists of four Detroit Symphony Orchestra string players — violinists Stacey Woolley and Marguerite Desjardis, violist Vincent Leonti and cellist Mario DiFiore.

They opened the program with Mozart's Divertimento in D Major K. 136. This short and early Mozart work is among the most often played, usually with a string orchestra. Overexposure is this work's major drawback. However, this performance managed to present it with a fresh and full-

bodied texture in spite of the reduced instrumentation.

The concluding work on the program was the magnificent Quintet for Clarinet and Strings by Brahms. The Ventura Quartet was joined by Doug Cornelius, clarinetist, for this concluding selection. Among the few chamber works for clarinet by Brahms, this is the latest and the most serene. The performance, which reflected the low-key nature of this composition, still offered sufficient dynamic range to make it interesting and eventful.

When the theme from the opening movement was reintroduced in the final movement, one had the feeling of completing a most extensive trip, in spite of the smooth ride.

Artists invited to enter 'Our Town' competition

For the second year, Carson Business Interiors Inc. of Southfield will sponsor the "Our Town" exhibit and sale for the benefit of The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, Oct. 29 to Nov. 1.

In celebration of Michigan's Sesquicentennial, Michigan artists are invited to submit their interpretations of the theme "Our Town," any hometown and its meaning to them.

Works may pertain to, but are not limited to, architecture, city, nature/landscape, people/portraits and still

life. All art is to be two-dimensional and may be done in any medium.

There will be \$10,000 in prizes awarded to the artists. Entries will be judged by 35 mm slides. A maximum of four works per artist may be submitted. Slides with entry forms are due July 31. Mary Dennison, art consultant and former director of the Detroit Artists Market, is the juror.

For entry forms, call The Community House, 644-5832, or write to Nancy Sellers, chairman "Our Town," The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, 48009.

Pianist, harpists to play for Musicales benefit

Maria Meirelles, pianist, and Patricia Terry-Ross and Christa Grix, duo harpists, will be the guest artists for a concert presented by Birmingham Musicales at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at Christ Church Cranbrook, Lone Pine and Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills.

Meirelles, born in Brazil, has performed as a recitalist in the metropolitan area many times. She has been a soloist with orchestras in the United States and Latin America and gave a command performance for the president of Mexico with the Mexican National Orchestra. She has recorded all of Beethoven's piano sonatas (32) and received outstanding reviews for her effort.

For this concert she will play works by Schubert, Liszt, Schumann, Scriabin and Chopin.

Grix and Terry-Ross have performed and toured with the Detroit Symphony and other orchestras. Terry-Ross teaches at Cass Technical High School and Wayne State University. She has made two albums for Open Sky Records.

Grix is on the music faculties of Mercy High School and Waldorf School of Detroit. She is often the featured performer at metropolitan area restaurants.

A reception follows the program. Proceeds from the concert fund the philanthropies of Birmingham Musicales such as scholarships



Maria Meirelles

for young musicians, community orchestras and the music-in-hospitals project. A portion of the funds will be given to the Oakland County Association of Retarded Citizens to help cover the cost of the first music festival held earlier this year.

Concert tickets, \$6 each, will be available at the door. For information, call 356-5539.

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