



Ending run

William C. Wendt is King Lear and Dinah Lynch is Regan in the first production of the Hilberry Theatre's Silver Anniversary Season. "King Lear" plays in repertory through Saturday with Howard Burman's "Whistler's Play." For ticket information, call the Wayne State University Theatre box office in Detroit at 577-3010.



Avigdor
Zaromp

Pasquier Trio makes a conquest

The community's musical streak continued on Saturday with the Chamber Music Society of Detroit program featuring the Pasquier Trio. This French string trio was founded in 1927 by three members of the Pasquier family. The present group was formed by Regis Pasquier and Bruno Pasquier, sons of Pierre Pasquier from the original group, and Roland Péloux.

Ordinarily, I feel some apprehension about string trio and duos. Unlike quartets, smaller groups tend to sound exposed and naked, which is the main reason for the much more limited repertoire. In view of the busy musical schedule, I was tempted to pass up this event. I feel fortunate that I didn't.

The program had an attractive pattern of its own. The four works consisted of two trios and two duos, the trios at the beginning and the end

of the program. Also, the second portion was dedicated to 20th-century music. The works on the program were the Trio in F Major Op. 14 by Boccherini, Duo in B Flat Major by Mozart, Sonata for Violin and Cello by Ravel and Trio No. 2 by Martinu.

THE PASQUIER Trio is a testament to the fact that a string trio can sound as rich and fulfilling as almost any other chamber combination. But it takes a group of their caliber to get this point across. Such groups are rare, indeed.

Among the composers on this program, Boccherini was the most prolific writer of chamber works. There are some 60 string trios of his. However, I found the Boccherini work the least attractive and inspired on the program. Not many would feel the urge to hear many of his remaining 59 trios, if this one is typical.

The Mozart Duo for Violin was the only work on this program that I had heard before (which is a rare admission by a music critic). Yet never before have I realized the full scope of this work. The ingenious variations in the final movement would occasionally sound like a full string orchestra.

The Ravel Sonata for Violin and Cello, "Le Tombeau de Claude Debussy," was originally part of a collection by various composers, including Bartok and Stravinsky, as a tribute to Debussy who died in 1918.

I FOUND this sonata to be the most fascinating item on the program. It is an unqualified musical treasure that deserves to be performed more often. Its second movement, which starts with a pizzicato, is somewhat reminiscent of Bartok, especially of his pizzicato movement

from this String Quartet No. 4.

The Martinu Trio, composed in 1934, was dedicated to the original Pasquier Trio. This work, in neoclassical style, is another example of Martinu's great musical gift. It occasionally sounds like a much larger group, but without loss of proportion.

Following the program, the Pasquier Trio played the "Alla Follia" movement from Beethoven's Serenade Op. 8 as an encore. While this work may not be one of Beethoven's ultimate achievements, this performance has convinced me that this work is far better than I had thought before.

The Pasquier Trio is one of very few groups that can make string trios and duos sound like a legitimate art. For this, they deserve a top place of honor in the field of chamber music.

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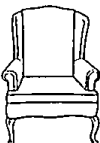
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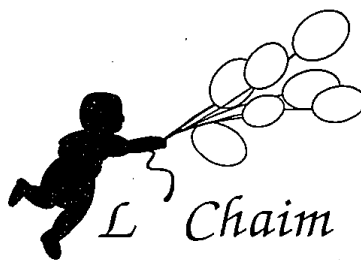
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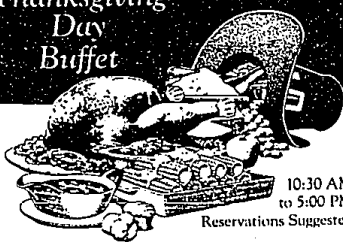
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