

# New series opens at academy

Last week, the new Kaleidoscope series came into being. While the series is new, its performing members are veterans, who appear regularly on other programs. The founders are violinist Nathan Gordon and flutist Johanna Both Flowers. Gordon, who had a long career as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's principal violinist, has conducted community orchestras for many years.

With such a combination of talent, the success of the series should be almost assured. The first of these programs was encouraging. There was a most respectable response at the Academy of Sacred Heart last Friday. In spite of the extreme cold weather, the rarely performed works on the program were by Beethoven, Kodaly, Martinu and Schumann.

One might expect Beethoven's work to tower above the rest, that wasn't the case here. The Serenade in D Major for Flute, Violin and Viola Op. 5, with its six short movements, is a far cry from the more familiar and typical Beethoven, even though some of the movements do possess some charm. This tends to illustrate that even Beethoven's mu-



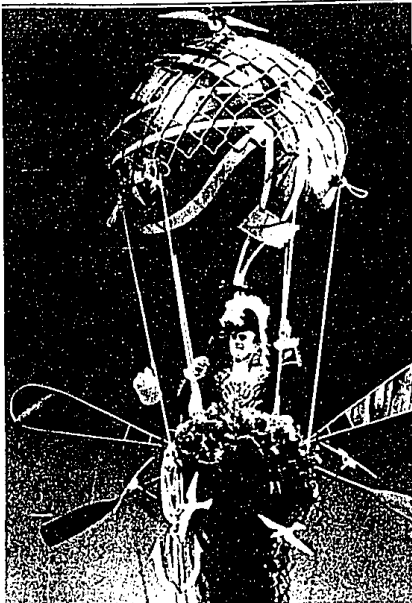
Avigdor Zoromp

sic needs substance to achieve the proper acclaim.

Of the other works, I found the Sonata for Piano and Cello Op. 4 by Kodaly to be masterful and noteworthy. The two movements, Fantasia and Allegro Con Spirito, contain most exquisite cello passages. The cycle conclusion, recalling the opening theme from the first movement, leaves the listener with a sense of aesthetically pleasing artistic proportion. The Madrigal Sonata for Piano and Violin by Martinu was another 20th century treasure. The subtlety and tonal richness of Martinu becomes more evident with each exposure to his music.

Schumann's chamber music for piano with other instruments tends to be neglected, with the exception of his popular piano quintet. On this program, his Piano Quartet Op. 47 for Piano and Strings gave this music another welcome boost, three days after his first piano trio was performed by the Vienna Schubert Trio at Orchestra Hall.

The acoustics of the hall at the Academy of Sacred Heart are not ideal. A constant effort on the part of the performers was needed to sustain and maintain the quality of the sound. They were equal to the task, however, by successfully producing a warm, colorful sound in spite of the obstacles.



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