

# Orchestra sounded unified

Continued from Page 4

ground. When performed by a capable pianist such as Andras Schiff, the impression this work creates is even more pronounced.

One may be tempted to say that Schiff, a Hungarian, would be expected to have an affinity to Bartok's music. While this may be a factor, more significant is that Schiff is an extremely gifted musician, who is capable of artistic excellence with many styles regardless of nationality, as his Bach recitals tend to suggest.

BARTOK was known to treat the piano as a percussive instrument. But Schiff's performance was much more than pounding assorted chords into the listeners' ears. He molded the music into a shape that would make its passages clear even to those with limited exposure to this work. Another significant contribution was Zimman's expert leadership of the orchestra.

This was present even to a greater extent in the Prokofiev symphony. With the exception of the first, "Classical" symphony, the Fifth is the most performed and highly regarded of Prokofiev's symphonies. The final movement is possibly best known to many listeners, as its theme is used as a

signal for WQRS "All Night" concert each night, also referred to as the "Midnight Express."

Under Zimman, the massive orchestration of this work was performed into a unified sound that flowed naturally, as if produced by one entity rather than 100 separate musicians. Strings, winds, brass and percussions came to the fore and faded into the background without leaving sharp, arbitrary edges.

The orchestra rose even above its usually high level. Even in the robust, forceful coda in the final movement with prominent brass and percussions, there was a continuous sense of order and structure.

It is a program such as this that tends to restore one's faith in the art of this century. It is the kind of performance that reassures us that names like Bartok and Prokofiev are destined to be permanent stars in the artistic skies of the future.

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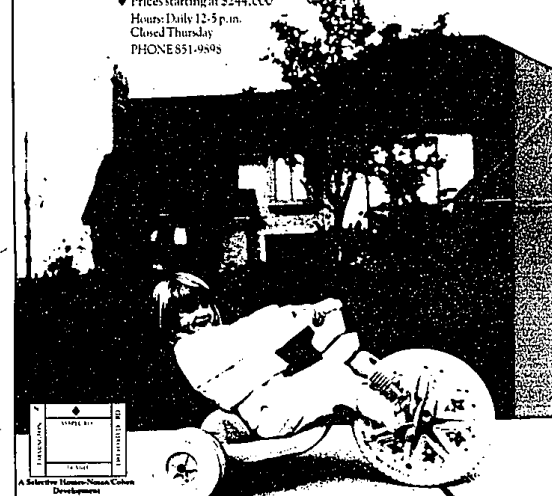
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## Council for Arts sponsor seminar

Michigan Council for the Arts and Arts Midwest, a consortium of nine state arts agencies, will sponsor a half-day seminar Friday, Feb. 19, on the two agencies' touring programs.

The seminar will take place 1-4 p.m. at Institute of Music and Dance, Center for Creative Studies, 200 E. Kirby, Detroit. The event is free and open to the public.

Arts Midwest's performing arts coordinator, John Humleker and MCA touring arts agency administrator, Mary Dalton, will present information on preparing complete and quality applications. The seminar will assist performing artists interested in touring regionally and within Michigan.

Arts Midwest is soliciting applications for inclusion in the 1989-90 Performing Arts Touring Directory. Application materials will be available at the seminar.

For information on the Touring Arts Seminar, call the Arts Projects Support staff at the Michigan Council for the Arts at 256-3717.

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