

Chamberworks' concert is best so far

In most instances, the contest between local chamber groups and the more established ones is lopsided in terms of reputation as well as quality. On rare occasions, however, a local group may offer an extra dimension, an experience that is more difficult to find elsewhere.

This was the case with the closing program of Chamberworks, which took place at the Central Woodward Christian Church in Troy. The program, consisting of works by Michel Corrette, Handel and Bach, became more stimulating as it progressed.

The Concerto in D Minor for Harpsichord, Flute and Strings by the French composer Corrette (1709-1795) proved to be an attractive



Avigdor Zoromp

work for such an obscure composer. It was an appropriate appetizer for the gourmet dishes that were to follow.

Handel's cantata, "Armida Abbandonata," is among his rarely heard works based on an Italian medieval test. Thomas Kuras, harpsichordist and music director of the series, always seems to be able to astound the

audience with his wealth of information.

On this occasion, he apologized for translating the medieval Italian text to preserve the general meaning rather than literal one of the idioms. But, judging by his ability in other areas, even a music critic from Rome wouldn't have done any better.

The regular group was joined by

other instrumentalists and vocalists. Flutist Penelope Fischer, violinist David Freers and bar player Marian Winger. Soprano Patricia Willington, wife of Paul Willington, the cellist of the group, sang in the Handel cantata.

The second portion of the program, all Bach, consisted of the Sonata in G Major for Flute, Violin and Basso continuo and culminated with the Coffee Cantata, No. 211. It was in this final work that this program reached its ultimate moments.

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Soprano Rose Hundall, singing the comic role of Lieschen, transmitted the kind of authentic enthusiasm and charm that no recording can adequately convey. Together with tenor Steven Stewart and baritone Phillip

Michael, the group generated a kind of musical aroma that was definitely not dead. We may never know what brand of coffee was Bach's favorite, but he would have enjoyed the flavor of this performance.

The audience was invited to attend a Master Class by Kuras the next Sunday at the Bellan Art Center. This turned out to be another unique experience. Those fortunate enough to attend got yet another glimpse of his multiple skills and talents.

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