

# Musicians perform well, in spite of heat

The latest outdoor concert at Meadow Brook was given in the midst of a heat wave that was the longest and hottest in many years. The musicians performed in short-sleeved shirts; however, visiting conductor John Nelson apparently is one of those who believe that if the show must go on, it must be done in full attire, including a full-length jacket. Nelson, music director of the Opera Theater in St. Louis and principal guest conductor of the Orchestre National de Lyon, is energetic enough to be undaunted by the uncomfortable weather.

Violinist Ida Haendel showed a similar resolve in performing Tchaikovsky's violin concerto. The other major work on the program was "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov. The program opened with a lively rendition of the Roman Carnival Overture by Berlioz.

UNDER THE circumstances, the quality of the performance in general was more than one could expect. The few weaknesses were an inevitable result of the sense of heat fatigue, but they were the exception in many stretches of impressive vitality.

Haendel, who had visited here sev-



**Avigdor Zarpom**

eral times before, rose to the occasion again. Accurate intonation, secure technique and singing phrases were the rule.

There were instances in which soloist and orchestra tended to drift apart, as in the fast triplets of the

second theme of the first movement. In some of the slower spots there was insufficient ritard to savor the theme fully, which may be understandable — it was next to impossible to savor anything under those conditions.

THE "SCHEHEREZADE" is possibly Rimsky-Korsakov's best known orchestral work, yet it is seldom heard in a live performance. Being based on the legends of the "Arabian Nights," it was the one work on the program that was performed under authentic weather conditions.

This lengthy work, which is enjoyed by many for its catchy tunes, masterful coloration and depiction of exotic places and periods, is less highly regarded in terms of musical quality.

While it may be inferior to symphonic works by greater masters, the instrumental ingenuity becomes

more apparent with each live performance that one listens to with full attention.

Concertmaster Gordon Staples was shining with his many impressive solo passages. Both solo and full orchestral passages were convincing most of the time, even though there were some occasional intonation slips.

More music by Russian composers is scheduled for the concerts at 8 p.m. Thursday, July 21, and Sunday, July 24, with Varujan Kojian as conductor. Let's hope for some Siberian (or at least milder) weather for a change.

# Detroit, Japanese dancers start exchange program

Marygrove College's cultural exchange program between Dance Detroit and the Etiole Ballet Theater of Toyota City, Japan, will kick off with two concerts at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 24. The Japanese artists will arrive on July 21 and stay until July 26.

Both concerts will be at the theater on the Marygrove campus. The

evening concert will be followed by an afterglow with the audience and both companies. Tickets are \$5 and \$10 for the matinee and \$25 for the gala/afterglow.

The companies will collaborate on the two concerts. Highlighted will be works by Hitoshi Suwa, Etiole Ballet's director and manager, Penny Godboldo, department chair, Jacob

Lasca, ballet master and choreographer and Germino Edwards and Ray Tadlo, guest choreographers-in-residence from New York.

Among the works on Dance Detroit's part of the program is the pas de deux from "Le Corsaire" performed by Marygrove alumni Kenneth Levitt, Connecticut Ballet Theatre, and Marie Aversa, Harbinger

Dance Company.

Suwa, choreographer and international performer, said his company will present the pas de six from "Sleeping Beauty" and "In the Dream" from "Don Quixote" representing the classical repertoire, excerpts from "Nagoya," a ballet based on Japanese folk traditions, "Toyota no Mukashibanashi," based

on tales from a book of the same name and "The Flames of Paris," featuring Koichi Kubo, a prize winner in three national competitions, and Tomoko Kato, who received acclaim for her performances in two festivals and one competition.

While here the 48-member group will be housed on the Marygrove

campus and have a master class with Jurgen Schneider, personal coach of Mikhail Baryshnikov and ballet master at American Ballet Theatre.

The Etiole Ballet Theatre's visit here is phase one of the project. Efforts are now under way to raise funds for Dance Detroit's visit to and performances in Japan next year.

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