

Musicians, singers perform well on hot night

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

As the Meadow Brook season draws to a close, the faithful need an ever-greater determination to stay with it through the sticky weather. Music director Gunther Herbig was back on the podium with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Thursday with some unusual items.

The prominent work on the pro-

gram was "Carmina Burana" by Carl Orff. This work, seldom heard live, propelled its composer to fame and recognition.

It is based on poems with explicit, lusty text written by medieval monks in the 12th century. The fact that the translation of the text wasn't in the printed program may induce some listeners to buy a recording.

The brief first half of the program consisted of a short Greeting Prelude by Stravinsky and a Divertimento for Orchestra by Bernstein. The Stravinsky prelude, based on the happy birthday tune, was dedicated (1955) to the 80th birthday of Pierre Monteux. On this occasion, it was performed to honor Bernstein's 70th birthday.

BERNSTEIN's divertimento,

which isn't musically profound, turned out nevertheless to be a source of fun and amusement for musicians and listeners.

The members of the Detroit Symphony choir and the Boys Chorus from Christ Church were seen walking toward the stage in preparation for their role in "Carmina Burana," dressed in full attire. Just seeing their full-length jackets was enough to make one even hotter. However



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reason prevailed, and the choral came on stage without their jackets.

While some of the staccato choral chords were on the soggy side, the overall performance was remarkable considering the adverse conditions. The brass fanfares and the full, disciplined choir reached heights that made one tend to ignore the surroundings, at least for brief periods.

AMONG THE solo singers, baritone Patrick Raftery was impressive with his rich voice. Soprano Linda

Zaghy and tenor Joseph Frank also presented their roles with clarity. The overall coordination of some of the most complicated rhythms by Maestro Herbig also deserves high marks.

The program with the Chicago Symphony, scheduled for last Friday, was canceled. Flights from Chicago to Detroit were canceled because of the storm.

While I may change my mind, the idea of scheduling the Meadow Brook Festival around December or January seems quite appealing.



Pianist to play this week

Pianist Claudio Arrau will perform the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5 ("Emperor") with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Meadow Brook at 8 p.m. Thursday and Sunday. Gunther Herbig will conduct the program, which will include works by Tchaikovsky and Weber. For tickets, call 377-2010.

Named to Music Hall's board

George F. Beech of Birmingham was recently elected to the board of directors of Music Hall Center. He is executive vice president and general manager of Borell, Jacobs, Kenyon and Eckhardt, Inc.

Music Hall Center is celebrating its diamond anniversary this season this year. It opens Sept. 13 with the Play, "Driving Miss Daisy," with Julie Harris and Brock Peters.

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