

# Stein, Chanteaux star in unusual program

By Avigdor Zaromp  
Special writer

For those who are tired of the standard repertoire, the latest Detroit Symphony Orchestra program



Marcy Chanteaux is assistant principal cellist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and a popular performer with chamber groups.

offered some change. Judging by the size of the audience, however, very few were eager to embrace this alternative.

Resident conductor Stephen Stein and assistant principal cellist Marcy Chanteaux occupied the spots normally reserved for guest conductor and performer. While they may attract a smaller audience than acclaimed superstars, this is no reflection on their talents and abilities. In fact, we have every reason to be proud of having such capable musicians in our midst.

The selections were "Die Natalele" by Barber, the Cello Concerto by Lutoslawski and "The Planets" by Holst. Of these, only the last work has had some exposure.

WITOLD LUTOSLAWSKI, a leading Polish composer whose music has been receiving steady international recognition, wrote his cello concerto for Rostropovich, who gave its premiere performance in 1970. The work is a drama built of complex interactions and confrontations between soloist and orchestra, which is apparent even on first listening.

The introduction, a peralstent, repeated D, sets up the tense, defiant nature of this work. Chanteaux was impressive with her penetrating, daring approach to this musically challenging work. She did it both in the nuances of the repetitious notes in the opening movement, as well as in the singing quality of the cantilena movement and the strong final movement. She played a movement from a Bach suite for unaccompanied cello as an encore.

"The Planets" is the single work for which Holst is recognized. Stein, who by nature of his position tends to be hidden from the regular subscribers most of the time, made an impressive showing. Following his convincing showing in Lutoslawski's uncharted territory, he delved courageously into Holst's complex score. He wielded the massive orchestral forces in the contrasting depictions of the various planets, which Holst associated with their astrological meanings.

THE WOMEN'S CHOIR of the Detroit Symphony Choral, which had a minor and invisible role in the "Nep-

tune" portion, made its mark during the intermission, singing Christmas carols in the lobby. The spirit of the season was also represented by Barber's work, which is based on some familiar Christmas tunes.

Many of us are, in a sense, addicted to the standard repertoire, and I am no exception. Craving the established masterpieces is something that will be always part of my taste and preference.

But even if one is fortunate to live in the most perfect and attractive surroundings, one needs to travel away from it, to have the sensation



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and experience of distant lands. Such experience, in addition to the enrichment it provides, also makes one understand and appreciate his home environment to a higher degree.

In order to achieve this effect, the foreign environment doesn't have to be mean and depriving. In some cases, it satisfies a need. This program was a case in point.

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