

Orchestra should get rave reviews on tour

By Alexander Zarembo
special writer

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra's last program before its tour was the kind readily associated with the style and Germanic tradition of Maestro Gunther Herbig. Schumann's violin concerto is on the fringes of the violin repertoire. Bruckner's Symphony No. 7, however, is Herbig's bread and butter.

Violinist Gidon Kremer, the soloist in the Schumann concerto, will be performing it on the European tour, in addition to the second Shostakovich concerto. This most gifted Latvian violinist never fails to provoke the listener with his original, sometimes controversial approach.

Schumann's violin concerto was considered an unworthy work even by the composer's close friends and associates, including his wife, Clara, and the prominent violinist, Joseph Joachim.

KREMER'S PERFORMANCE of this rarely performed work showed an aspect that isn't apparent in most performances.

He emphasized its melodic, lyrical character by exploring every note without resorting to technical showmanship.

This approach had its share of side effects. The final movement, designated in German "lehaft, doch nicht zu schnell" ("lively, but not too fast"), was delivered with a strong emphasis on the second part of the designation and not enough on the first.

While the slow pace seemed to suit

review

Kremer's artistic purpose, the orchestral passages tended to sound clumsy and awkward. The struggle between the slow beat and the natural tempo of the music was all too obvious. Schumann's other instrumental concerto — for cello and orchestra — should provide some clue for the tempo in the violin concerto. It would support the case for a substantially faster clip.

BRUCKNER'S LONG symphonies are often subject to jokes and ridicule, with yours truly being one of the offenders. Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, however, is one of his more appealing creations. Herbig conducted this work in a manner that resembled an officiation over a holy ritual, with an unmistakable sense of duty and dedication.

The long, sprawling movements of Bruckner's symphonies can easily create a sense of aimlessness and redundancy. It is very common to see people leaving in droves between movements. While there were some early departures in this performance, they were isolated cases. The majority of the larger than average audience indicated their interest not merely by staying, but in a general sense of emotional contact, if not total commitment.

Herbig was impressive in his ability to convey a sense of character and overall shape to this lengthy work.

table talk

Premiere chefs

Thirty-three of Michigan's premiere chefs are participating in "Michigan the Bountiful," described as "an afternoon of epicurean delights," from 3-7 p.m. Sunday at the Southfield Pavilion at the Southfield Civic Center. The chefs will prepare

Michigan cuisine — hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, entrees and desserts. There also will be fine wines and music. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association scholarship fund. The event is cosponsored by the City of Southfield and the chefs association.



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Cardiac Arrest is one of two quartets singing in "50 Years of Solid Gold Barbershop Harmony" at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 3-4, at Clarenceville High School in Livonia.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY

The Detroit-Oakland County Barbershop Singing Chapter will present its 50th annual four-part harmony show, "50 Years of Solid Gold Barbershop Harmony," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 3-4, at Livonia Clarenceville High School. Bob Moreillon of Livonia is show director. Featured performers on the stage will be two quartets: Chiefs of Staff, 1988 International Champion Barbershop Quartet, and the American-style Chordiac Arrest. The 50-man Gentlemen songsters Barbershop Chorus will round out the evening. Tickets at \$10 may be purchased by calling 422-5562.

JAZZ CONCERT

Wayne State University's Professor Dennis Tini will present a Jazz Concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at St. Aldan Parish complex in Livonia. This will be Professor Tini's eighth performance for the St. Aldan Cultural Society, including his jazz concert of last winter. A wine and cheese reception will be held immediately following the concert. The concert and reception is \$5 per person. For further information, call 471-5158.

TRUE STORY

The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford will present "My Sister in This House" by Wendy Kesselman at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Feb. 10-11, 17-18 and 24-25, at the playhouse in Redford. The tale, based on a true story, examines the growing tension of four lonely women trapped under one roof. Tickets are \$8. There is an opening night \$1 discount for students and senior citizens. For reservations call 427-1905.

DINNER DANCE

Hawthorne Valley in Westland is planning its first annual Valentine's Dinner Dance from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10. The evening consists of a full-course prime rib dinner, open bar and dance music by Hartline, the same band that performed at Hawthorne Valley's sold-out New Year's Eve celebration. Cost is \$30 per person or \$55 per couple. For reservations call 422-3440.

BLACK HISTORY

To honor Black History Month, a drama, "Escape to Freedom," will be performed by the Detroit Center for Performing Arts at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, in Kresge Hall at Madonna College in Livonia. The play follows Fredric Douglass from his childhood on a slave plantation to his position as writer statesman and presidential adviser. The production uses song, dance and period costumes to recreate the Antebellum South. Admission is \$1. For more information, call 591-5197.

'ODD COUPLE'

Nancy Donovan of Westland will play Florence in the Players Guild of Dearborn production of the comedy "The Odd Couple" (female version) Friday-Sunday, Jan. 20-22, and 27-29. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Friday-Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door. For reservations or information, call 356-0951.

AT JOEY'S

Tom Anzalone from Dangerfield's in New York appears through Saturday, Jan. 28, at Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia. For more information, call 261-0555.

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