

Kottler steals part of piano festival's show

By Avigdor Zoromp
Of the five pianists who participated in the Piano Festival of the Lyric Chamber Ensemble, one commanded the center of attention, even though his selections constituted only a small portion of the program.
Mischa Kottler, just returned from a trip to Vienna in the company of the touring Detroit Symphony Orchestra, is celebrating his 90th birthday this season and he keeps getting younger.
His youthful spirit showed as soon as he came on stage. After fussing with the stool for awhile, he motioned with mock impatience to the stagehand, who promptly replaced it. Then he motioned him to disappear — which he did instantly. When

he finally sat down, he proceeded to impart the most lavish and colorful sounds imaginable on the piano.
His selections — a rhapsody by Dohnanyi, "Ricordanza" by Czerny and "Etude Tableaux" by Rachmaninoff — represent some of the most delicious musical morsels one could encounter. His technique, refined touch and profound art are undaunted by age.
When he returned for another stage call, the audience rose to a standing ovation. Kottler promptly turned around and ran off the stage. A few seconds later he walked to the piano to perform Chopin's "Minute Waltz." Following the standard beginning, he proceeded to his own dev-

ilishly complicated arrangement in thirds. Kottler will be performing on this Sunday's final program of the festival.
There were other landmarks. The concert opened with Frederic Chopin's D Major No. 48 for two pianos. It is a most stimulating work in the two-piano repertoire.
Flavio Varani performed the Sonata No. 1 in F Sharp Minor by Schumann. This sonata, seldom played, provides some insight into his more exotic music. Varani, a native of Brazil, described Schumann in just as one of his favorite South-American composers, in reference to the Fandango dance in the opening movement.

Michael Gurt, the son of Joseph Gurt, followed in his father's stride with his impressively refined rendition of Ravel's "Gaspard de la Nuit."
Horowitz, Varani, Michael and Joseph Gurt combined for an unusual, two-piano eight-hand version of Weber's "Invitation to the Dance." Following the climactic passage toward the end, the audience burst into premature applause before the calm coda, which restates the opening material.
One of my dreams is of an audience that is so sophisticated that it even withholds its applause after the third movement of Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique." Composers turn such dreams into fantasies.

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Violinist from USSR performing on Sunday

Ukrainian violinist Oleh Krysa will give his first concert in the United States in 10 years at 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at Fitzgerald High School Auditorium of Warren. Accompanying him on the piano will be his wife, Tatyana Tchechina.
Krysa, who succeeded his former teacher, David Oistrakh, as head of the violin class at Moscow State Conservatory, has served on the faculty of the Kiev Conservatory in the Ukraine as well as the Gnesin Pedagogical Institute of Music and Moscow State Conservatory.
As a member of the Beethoven Quartet and the

Krysa-Bobrovsky-Monigetti String Trio, he has performed a wide variety of chamber music. In solo recital, often with his wife as accompanist, he has toured the Soviet Union, Europe, Japan, Egypt, Canada and the United States.
The program will include a sonata for violin and piano by the contemporary Ukrainian composer Boris Lyatoshynsky, a work for solo violin written for Krysa by Alfred Schnittke and works by Beethoven and Brahms. Tickets, \$15, \$10 and \$5, are available at the door, 23200 Ryan Road, north of Nine Mile, Warren.

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