

# Palmieri brings sense of excitement to podium

By Mary Jane Doerr  
Special writer

The attitude of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra at their Sunday evening Temple Beth El Classical Series was "the show must go on."

Finnish conductor Ralf Sjöblom canceled. BBSO's music director and conductor, Felix Rietveld, was in Europe on tour with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and so was concertmaster Linda Snedden-Smith.

However, the 75-member orchestra went ahead with the concert. Valerie Palmieri, assistant conductor and assistant concertmaster for the orchestra, took up the baton as conductor. Mary Stolberg, associate

concertmaster, lead the orchestra from concertmaster's position.

The orchestra didn't want to perform the Finnish conductor's choice of Sibelius's Symphony No. 1 in E Minor. So, they changed it to Sibelius's Symphony No. 2 in D Major, a more difficult selection.

Palmieri, director of orchestras at Lahser and Andrew high school and at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, conducts with a direct approach, one full of tempo and movement and a sense of excitement. The rhythms were clearly apparent, entrances were elaborated plainly.

THAT PEPPY tempo benefited the rendition of the often performed overture to the not as often mounted

"Bartered Bride" (the fiancée who was sold). Not until one realizes the development of Smetana's compositional talents at the Göteborg Philharmonic in southern Sweden, can it be understood why the Bohemian master of the folk opera would be included in an evening of Scandinavian works.

A prelude to the evening, "Praeludium" by Jarnfeldt, was more like an interlude. This elegant piece, a short number, seemed to be a throw-back to earlier church music. Instead it was composed by Sibelius' brother-in-law in 1907.

Probably the most delightful segment of the evening was a spirited duet between Stolberg and Barbara J. Stolberg, principal violinist. Like so many of Romantic compositions of the 18th century, Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg composed the

"Holberg Suite" for piano and later adapted it for orchestra, tributing it to a famous Danish writer Ludvig Holberg. The piece is classical, but the Rigodon dance of the last movement is the most appealing, especially with the lively Stolberg duet.

Temple Beth El provides the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra with the most dramatic and acoustically acceptable environment anywhere, a truly exciting place to hear a concert. A few minor adjustments might balance the orchestra's sound and improve the seating arrangement.

This orchestra always performs Romantic literature well. Usually it is Tchaikovsky. Sunday evening, Sibelius's 1902 "cry for Finnish independence," the Second Symphony, was their choice. The orchestra seemed to relish the strong elements

in the first movement and the music's staggering climax. Palmieri's conducting concentrated on the technical elements. The musicians concentrated on the emotional ones.

The orchestra returns to Roma's of Bloomfield for an evening of "Jazz at the Symphony" with clarinetist Theodore Dien on Friday, March 16.



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## Scandinavian Symphony to give concert Feb. 25

The Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra, Matthew Hazelwood director, will give a concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at Southfield High School Auditorium, 10 Mile and Lahser, Southfield.

The program, "Casual Classics,"

will include the Pachelbel Canon, the Suite from "The Three-Cornered Hat" by de Falla, the Holberg Suite by Grieg and "Exultate Jubilate" by Mozart with Victoria Walker, soloist. For information and tickets, call 535-1330 or 644-9203.

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