

Chamber groups differ widely

Two chamber programs were given last week by visiting groups. The Chamber Music Society of Detroit series (CMS) featured the I Musici de Montreal with works ranging from baroque to 20th century music. This Orchestra Hall series is now in its 45th season.

The chamber series at Music Hall is a newcomer. This featured the New York Chamber Soloists in a program of Bach's six Brandenburg concerti. It took place on Sunday before a small, but appreciative audience.

Normally, I don't regard musical events as a contest. Each is highly competent and offers its unique treasures with the audience being the ultimate winner. In this case, however, there was a great discrepancy in artistic fulfillment and enjoyment.

The Montreal group, conducted by

While the style of performance is unusual, it seems to be based more on whim than on a solid stylistic foundation. The members perform standing up, which may explain some of the rush to get it over with. The baroque items on the program by Handel and Vivaldi sounded, in general, uninspiring.

A work by the contemporary Andre Prevest had the sound of a cat put into a blender. More substantial 20th century works were a concerto for oboe by Vaughan Williams and a set of variations on a theme by Bridge, written by Britten. The

AMONG THE several attempts here in recent years to perform Bach's complete Brandenburg concerti cycle, I found the one by the New York Chamber Soloists to be the most satisfying. All were extremely capable in their challenging parts. These included harpsichordist Elizabeth Metcalfe in the brilliant cadenza in the Fifth; violinist Helen Kwalwasser in the Fourth; and trumpet player Mark Gould in the Second. There was a sincere effort to avoid monotony without violating the style.

The Sixth, musically the most challenging to present attractively.

The attendance turned out to be in reverse proportion to the quality of the events. For the CMS series, this latest event was an exception in otherwise excellent programs by top-rate groups.

This Saturday the Berlin Chamber Orchestra will present a program of works by Bach, Stravinsky, Boccherini and Mozart at 8 p.m. at Orchestra Hall as a part of the Chamber Music Society series.



Performing in Detroit

Steve Reich and Musicians and guest **David Tannebaum** will be on stage at **Michigan Theater** at 8 p.m. **Saturday**. Reich's influence on contemporary music, classical and popular, is far reaching. For information, call 868-8337.

Scholarship winners perform

The Birmingham Musicals will celebrate spring with its program at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at the Community House, 360 S. Bates, Birmingham.

Winners of the 1989 Junior Club Scholarship awards will perform. The program is dedicated to the Crusade for Strings of the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs.

In keeping with this, the Musicales String Ensemble, under the direction of Tim Nicolla, will play Serenade for Strings by Sir Edward Elgar as well as selections by Heinrich Biber and Giovanni Pergolesi.

The String Ensemble was formed

in 1959. It plays for community organizations, schools, nursing homes and yearly at a meeting of the Musicales. Nicolli, cellist, Royal Oak, plays in chamber groups and community orchestras and teaches privately.

Peg-Chin Chao, pianist, 9th grader at Andover High School, is the first place winner in the Junior Club scholarship competition. She studied with Sheila Stephenson. Rachael Francisco, cellist, a senior at Berkeley High School is the second place winner. She studies with Paul Wingerl. Third place winner, Matthew Sarns, pianist, is in the 11th

grade at Bethesda Christian and studies with Blodwin Stephenson.

The awards will be presented by Eleanor Whelan, Junior Clubs coordinator. A reception will follow the program. Guests are welcome for a small donation. For information, call 375-9534.



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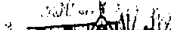

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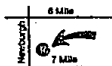
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

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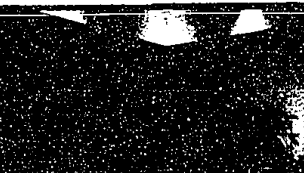
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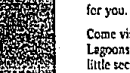
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