

Light program was stronger than expected

By Avigdor Zarembo
special writer

Flutist Eugenia Zukerman and pianist Andre-Michel Schub combined their talents for a rewarding recital at the Jewish Community Center of West Bloomfield.

The 9 p.m. starting time, in accordance with orthodox Jewish customs which prohibit any travel and work during the Sabbath, was no problem to the many who showed up for this special event.

Zukerman and Schub are top rank

artists. They can sound profound even with a program of mostly light selections.

Works by Mozart, Debussy, Dvorak, Mendelssohn, Ben-Haim and Poulenc were featured. Of these, the Sonata in F Major, K. 376 by Mozart and the Sonata in G Major by Dvorak were arrangements of the originals, written for piano and violin.

Mozart's sonata, which isn't one of his best works, sounded at least as radically more substantial than its simplistic exterior. Dvorak's Sonata, arranged for flute by the Israeli

conductor Yoav Talmi, retained its airy and bouncy character.

The center of gravity of the program was the works that the artists performed separately. "Syrinx" by Debussy for unaccompanied flute and Variations Serenades Op. 54 by Mendelssohn. In the "Syrinx," a short work, Zukerman captured the essence of her instrument and achieved the highest degree of artistic spontaneity.

Schub answered his calling as a soloist in Mendelssohn's challenging variations. The notion of the soft,

overly sweet and carefree Mendelssohn was shattered in this performance, giving rise to a most intricate and complex spirit. Some variations, hinting at the future style of Brahms, proved to be among the musical peaks of the program.

"Songs without Words" are known primarily as a collection of piano pieces by Mendelssohn. Much lesser

known are three such songs by Paul Ben-Haim, a leading Israeli composer who died a few years ago. Ben-Haim may not win a contest against Mendelssohn, but these songs, written in the early '30s, reveal the character of the State of Israel, which was in its formative years at that time.

A light touch enhanced the neo-ro-

mantle style in the concluding Sonata for Flute and Piano by Poulenc.

This was followed by a Scherzino by Joachim Anderson, a composer whom Eugenia Zukerman didn't know much either, according to her statement.

This recital showed that a program that may look light could prove to be quite fulfilling.

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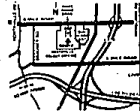
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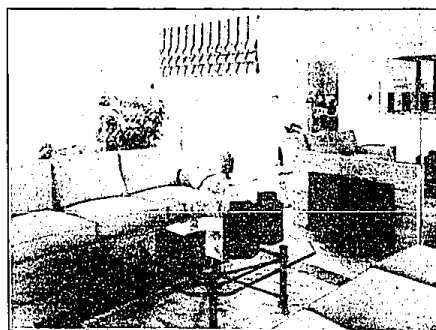
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