

Musicians build musical bridges

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

Some talented groups and individuals in our area remain unused most of the time. In some instances, this is due to insufficient self-promotion.

— Pianist-composer Albert James Philmore is a case in point. He had served as the head of the piano department of the Institute of Music and Dance in Detroit. If his music is less likely to be promoted by modern marketing methods, it is perhaps due to its unusual, personal style, coupled with the unpretentious personality of the composer.

The old romantic, and especially Chopin, have left an indelible mark on Philmore. A work such as "The Muse of Chopin," patterned after Chopin's 24 piano preludes, is more than mere imitation. It creates a welcome bridge between that bygone era and the present, in a way that doesn't alienate contemporary listeners. Other works by Philmore attest to his knowledge of the contemporary idioms without ignoring the bridges to the rich past.

A GROUP of vocalists in our area deserving attention is the "Musiques Pleasure." Their repertoire ranges from unaccompanied ancient madrigals to contemporary tunes, with various choral and instrumental combinations in between.

This group, with Philmore and other musicians, gathered at the Bellan Arts Center recently for a program titled "An Evening of Music for a Summer Night."

In spite of the heat, the thoughts of the audience turned gradually to the music, virtually all of which consisted of unfamiliar works. Even the few works by familiar composers — "Mi langero facendo," K. 437 by Mozart and two choral selections by Mendelssohn — were uncharacteristic of these composers. They worked their way from the Elizabethan music of Thomas Morley to more recent folk tunes and spirituals.

There are many attempts to build bridges from the past to the present. This was among the more beautiful ones.



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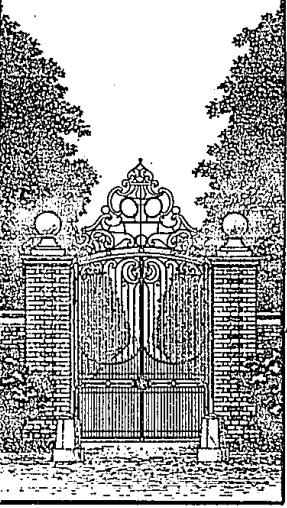
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