

# Return to Orchestra Hall draws sell-out crowd

By Avigdor Zarembo Staff writer

The celebration marking the homecoming of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's permanent return to Orchestra Hall reached a peak last weekend. The special event Friday featured stars and tunes that were part of the heritage of this place a half century ago.

After the orchestra left the building, it was renamed Paradise Theater.

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The Fourth Annual Quilt Show and Folk Art Fair will be held 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at Richardson Center, 1495 Oakley Park Road.

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atre and became a center for jazz and musicals, featuring stars such as Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton.

For the homecoming concert, Mitch Miller conducted popular selections from that period before a sell-out crowd. He is one of the living bridges between the present and that bygone era. Other celebrities from that era joined in the festivities.

DETROIT SYMPHONY musicians, who are accustomed to a steady diet of classical music, felt at

ease with this alternate style and were visibly enjoying it.

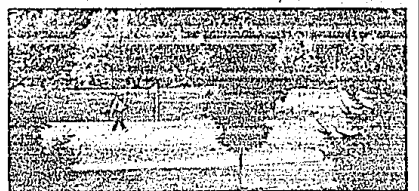
There weren't many of the familiar faces from the classical series in this audience. The prospect of capturing a sizeable portion of this audience for the undersold classical series may be unrealistic. But even a small measure of success could prove to be vital in forming a more solid bridge between the DSO and the community.

Subsequently they performed forces on the stage, symbolizing an unbroken bridge from the past to the future.

THE DETROIT Symphony Orchestra has come full circle since its departure from Orchestra Hall 50 years ago. It is now coming back in this acoustically perfect building, which was saved from the wrecker's ball by one of its own members, Paul Ganson, who led the Save Orchestra Hall group for many years.

There is a lot of renovation yet to be done, but a newly painted segment with some new carpeting, reminiscent of a glorious past, provided an inkling of the glowing future. The challenges of the DSO have only begun. But there are a lot of people out there ready to take them on.

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