

# Neeme Jarvi provides the indefinable extra

By Avigdor Zaromp  
Special writer

Competence and correct approach are taken for granted with an orchestra such as the Detroit Symphony.

While such qualities are desirable in themselves, they aren't enough to make the difference between the mundane and the ecstatic. To achieve the latter, some extras are needed, the kind that defy exact definition.

Music director Neeme Jarvi is one of a few capable of providing these. Last week he presented a program of mostly 20th century works. In the "eye" of this hurricane was the relative calmness of a Mozart concerto, with Emanuel Ax as soloist.

Mozart's Concerto K. 488 in A major (No. 23) seemed very distant after the landmark performance of Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring," which drew a standing ovation.

IF, IN retrospect, Mozart's concerto seemed anticlimactic, it wasn't due to any major deficiency on Ax's part.

Indeed, he shaped the phrases of this work brilliantly, with a touch

that centered on inspiration rather than virtuosity. This was especially true in the poignant second movement, which is technically simple, but musically most demanding.

Even the fast clip of the final movement didn't distract him from the essence and shape of the phrases, rather than with their speed. The general low level volume of the performance was in line with Mozart's style. While tame in comparison to Ravel's "La Valse" and Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring," the impact of this program wouldn't have been the same without such contrast.

IT OPENED with "Frates" by the Estonian composer Arvo Part (born in 1935), whose music Jarvi has championed.

This tonal work, which has minimalist features in its repetitions of a simple theme, offers more variety and stimulation than most so-called "minimalist" works that I have heard and that bore me to death.

Ravel's "La Valse," a reflection on the old Viennese tradition in the context of the more turbulent periods between the two world wars, seemed to offer less moments of equanimity on this occasion than in most other performances I have heard.

The initial cloudy texture never lifted completely except in the most



Avigdor Zaromp

extreme outburst, suggesting that the nostalgic past could no longer be recaptured.

THERE WAS a sense of spontaneity in this performance of the "Rite of Spring," unhampered by the kind

of overly tight and rigid rein that tends to inhibit spontaneity in other wise accurate performance. Yet this sense of freedom didn't result in any significant sense of chaos.

There was, indeed, a discipline was in this performance, but the kind that is undertaken voluntarily rather than externally imposed. Even in the most lavish and voluminous passages there was no out-of-control blaring by the brass or noise for its own sake by the percussionists.

The depiction of a primitive ritual is more than the indiscriminate manufacturing of noise, at least when written by somebody of Stravinsky's stature. This was one rare performance that made this point impressively.

If there was any doubt that Spring is here to stay, this was made amply clear by the delightful dessert of the "Flight of the Bumblebee" by Rimsky-Korsakov, presented as an encore.

## 2 centuries of great flower books

"Great Flower Books 1700-1900," by Sacheverell Sitwell and Wilfred Hunt, Atlantic Monthly Press (\$65), a bibliographical record of two centuries of finely illustrated flower books, presents a collection of prints by outstanding artists of the day.

More than 750 illustrated flower books are listed, the color plates are well-chosen and the explanations concerning each one are fascinating.

Descriptions of the techniques of plant and flower printmaking (and the illustrators) make the reader more appreciative of the diligence required to produce fine results. This beautifully produced volume is ideal for all who are interested in antique books whether from a historical or artistic point of view. A treasure.

He describes more than 100 genres suitable for all types of rock garden conditions and explains their needs. He details the history of many of them and relates experiences as they were searched for and found.

As the narrative unfolds, she tells what worked and what didn't, how success was achieved in the ever-evolving garden. This charming book will guide those with small or large areas for planting.

"PERENNIAL Garden Plants," Graham Stuart Thomas, Sagapress, Timber Press (\$39.95), needs to be in every garden library. Throughout the world in this third edition, Thomas has added many plants and included 158 hardiness zones.

In the first part of the book, he gives his views on many aspects of gardening.

"Wherever and whatever the garden is, though, plants can be found to fit it satisfactorily, it is one of the aims of this book to show how this may be done," he writes about gardens old or new.

Descriptions of more than 2,000 species of perennials are given including growing requirements, time of bloom and color.

### gardener's book nook



Marty Figley

THOMAS IS also the author of "Plants For Ground-Cover," Sagapress, Timber Press (\$26.95), an excellent companion to the perennials lists.

Thomas, a renowned plantsman, photographer, artist, and author, calls this volume a reference book for young and old. He covers the proper way to choose and care for suitable ground-cover plants, and how to create gardens that require less maintenance, using nature's offerings, such as leaves, as mulches for controlling weeds and for enriching the soil.

Shrubs, climbing plants, conifers, herbaceous plants, grasses, rushes and ferns are included, as well as ideas for landscaping large areas

such as those around municipal buildings and factories.

"GARDENING FROM the Heart," Carol Howell, Antelope Island Press (\$18.95), consists of interviews with 21 gardeners, young and old, who tell why they garden.

Their reasons are diverse. We meet a former psychiatrist, occupational therapist who began gardening at the age of 68, an artist with a wonderful sense of whimsy, a high way landscaper. Those who garden for the pure joy of it - vegetable gardeners and people who help others learn and cope. This is an inspiring account of the pleasures of gardening.

For tree lovers interested in learning some little-known facts about trees - "Red Oaks and Black Berries," Hebercia Rupp, Garden Way (\$18.95 cloth, \$10.95 soft) will be a delight.

The author is quite knowledgeable about the subject and that comes across in the way she cleverly integrates information. A nice way to get to know a favorite tree a bit better and to become acquainted with others.

Marty Figley is a Farmington based certified Master Gardener.

**MITCH HOUSEY'S**  
it's all new...  
Open 11 a.m. -  
LUNCHEONS from \$3.95  
DINNERS  
ALL NEW MENU featuring  
Prime Rib • Seafood  
Pasta • Steaks  
Desserts • Appetizers  
DAILY SPECIALS  
Dinners Starting At \$7.95  
Prime Rib \$9.95  
COCKTAIL HOUR  
4-7 p.m.  
Fabulous Prices  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
JOHN E. COLA BAND  
NOW BOOKING BANQUETS  
RESERVE NOW FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES  
28500 Schoolcraft  
(Opposite Ludbrook DR)  
LIVONIA • 425-5520  
AMPLE LIGHTING & PARKING  
DAILY MON-SAT. 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.  
NOW OPEN SUN. 11:00 p.m.

**Pets Are Inn**  
Boarding without cages in a loving home environment.  
Call for free brochure  
642-6842

**On the Town**  
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

**Clancy's BAR & GRILL**  
Serving Lunch & Dinner  
Sandwiches • Steaks • Seafood  
SPECIALS - Prime Rib, Pork Loin, Fresh Lobster, SEAFOOD RAW BAR  
Entertainment Friday & Saturday Night  
Featuring... JOSE RIOJAS  
For Your Dancing And Listening Enjoyment  
477-7177

**Kevin's OAK PARK 967-2033**  
25224 GREENFIELD (South of I-696)  
THE CHINESE CUISINES OF HONG KONG, TAIWAN, SINGAPORE  
Serving the Finest Seafood, Steak and Bar-B-Que  
NOW OPEN!  
Dancing & Entertainment Every Wed. thru Sat.  
Our Famous 20 oz. N.Y. Strip Steak (complete dinner) \$9.95  
VALUABLE COUPON EARLY BIRD SPECIAL 20% OFF DINNER (12 pm to 6 pm)

**Felicity D'Amico RISTORANTE**  
Live Entertainment Wed.-Sat.  
Featuring American & Gourmet  
Prix Fixe from \$4.00  
A wide variety of Pasta from \$5.95 to \$7.95  
Italian Steaks & Chops • Extensive Wine List  
32030 Picomouth Rd. • Livonia  
422-0770

**T.S. MARTIN'S Restaurant & Tavern**  
NOW OPEN...  
GRAND OPENING  
Friday, 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Hot chowders and other specials  
Karaoke Sing-a-long all night  
27189 GRAND RIVER East of Inkster Road  
(313) 537-6610  
Live Entertainment Thursday-Saturday

**Homespun Traditions**  
An Old Fashioned Country Craft Show  
1 Day Only  
Sunday, April 14, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Laurel Manor, 3900 Schoolcraft, West of Newburgh, Livonia  
\$1.50 Admission - Lunch Available  
Live Dulcimer Music by Felicity Strings  
For More Information Call 462-4096

**Mama Mia**  
DINNER FOR 2  
Choice of Tenderloin Steak, Broiled Boston Scrod, Veal Parmesan, Pasta Primavera  
\$10.95  
Banquet Facilities Available  
LIVONIA 427-1000  
REDFORD 427-0740

**Corsi's**  
27910 W. Seven Mile Rd. Detroit, MI 48220  
531-4960  
Banquet rooms from 25-400 people  
Catering service. On & Off premises  
CORSI'S FRIDAY FEAST BUFFET  
Featuring:  
• All American Western Plate  
• Chicken  
• Beef Brisket  
• Lasagna  
• Grilled Corn with Butter  
• Grilled Pork with Pineapple  
• Pizza with 4 Toppings  
• Creamy Macaroni & Cheese  
• Creamy Mashed Potatoes  
• Fruit Salad  
Serving from \$5.95 (NO WAITING)  
ADULTS Under 10 years \$5.25 \$2.99

**ALL DAY SUNDAY BUFFET**  
ALL YOU CAN EAT BRUNCH  
9:30-4 \$6.95  
DINNER  
4:00-9 \$8.95  
BANQUET FACILITIES and CATERING SERVICE AVAILABLE!  
**Leather Inn**  
20300 Farmington Road  
Farmington, MI 48334  
425-8300

**MOY'S Japanese & Chinese Restaurant**  
18225 Middlebelt Livonia  
For Reservations Call: 427-3170  
Japanese Steak House  
"Tasting" Cooking  
10% Discount With \$30 Purchase  
CHINESE & AMERICAN TRADITIONAL  
10% Discount With \$15 Purchase  
Both Restaurants Open Daily 11 a.m. Closed Mondays

**Geo's Family Dining**  
25938 Middlebelt Rd. at 11 Mile Rd. in the Mid-11 Plaza Farmington Hills 476-1750  
ROAST CHICKEN DINNER 2 FOR \$8.95  
Enjoy 2 Roasted Half Chickens!  
With: Soup, Salad or Vegetable (choice of two)  
Choice of Potato Rice Pudding  
OPEN 7 DAYS  
MON. 11:00 am - 10:00 pm  
TUES. THUR. 7 am - 10 pm  
SUN. 8 am - 10 pm  
(No Substitutions)

**UNITED ARTISTS West River**  
OPEN 11:30 A.M. DAILY, 9:30 A.M. SAT.  
GRAND RIVER WEST OF MIDDLEBELT IN THE WEST RIVER SHOPPING CENTER WEST 10 MILE 476-0844  
GUILTY BY SUSPICION (PG-13)  
THE HARD WAY (R)  
TEENAGE MUTANT TURTLES: THE SECRET OF THE OOZE (PG)  
REVERSAL OF FORTUNE (R)  
SARGAN MATINEES - MON. WED. FRI. SAT. SUN. BEFORE 1:30 PM  
FREE POPCORN! GIFT Certificates Available  
Present this coupon at the United Artists Theatre, at West River, for one session. This coupon is not valid with any other offer. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Expires April 10, 1991.

**Use Your Nooodle. Come To Our Italian Buffet.**  
It doesn't take much brain power. Just come to the Livonia Marriott Sunday evenings, and for \$10.95 per person, you'll get a variety of pastas. Not to mention fresh salads and numerous desserts. Marriott's Italian Buffet. Use your noodle, and come enjoy all of ours.  
LIVONIA Marriott  
27100 Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48152 (313) 462-1100