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# Symphony Celebration Features 3 Conductors

By BETTY MASSON

Balloons popped out of a three-foot high birthday cake (non-edible), two trumpets, were kicked out of the orchestra and conductor Wayne Dunlap smashed the violin of a dissonant female Saturday evening in Plymouth's Central High School.

All this took place as the Plymouth Symphony celebrated its 25th birthday with its once-a-year pops concert.

There were more serious moments in the concert, too, and the general mood of the audience seated around the cabaret tables was one of complete absorption in the music, especially in the performances by the two soloists, cellist Norman Fischer and baritone Nat Sibbold.

THE AUDIENCE also enjoyed the spirited conducting of Paul Wagner, who founded the orchestra, and returned from Basking Ridge, N.J., especially for the occasion.

Wagner showed that though he is now an administrator, principal of a junior high school, he has lost none of his skill as a conductor, when he led the symphony in the Overture to Glinka's "Russian and Ludmilla" and Rodgers' "Guadalcanal March."

"I am indeed proud of Plymouth and what you folks have done with this orchestra," he said. "This has taken a lot of heart, intestinal fortitude and hard work."

Wagner started two orchestras in his early days as a music teacher, he revealed, but only Plymouth's survived. The other, in Medina, Ohio, was disbanded when he left.

Still another guest conductor, Emil Raag, took time to praise the symphony too.

"I'm sure you realize what an unusual orchestra you have here," he said. "It's a mixture of teachers, housewives, students, businessmen, making wonderful music together and enjoying each other as they do."

Raag, who is now teaching at Bowling Green (Ohio) State College, led the orchestra in "Espagna Rhapsody" by Chabrier. He replaced Dunlap during the 1964-65 season, while the latter was in Europe.

FISCHER CHOSE for his return to Plymouth, Tchaikovsky's "Variations on a Roccoco Theme," and gave a very sensitive performance. Now a student at Oberlin College (Ohio), he was first introduced to the cello by Dunlap as a student at Bird Elementary School in Plymouth.

According to Dunlap, "I gave him lessons and then I was studying from him." Dunlap's faith in him has been justified.

Sibbold made his first appearance with the symphony in the same year Dunlap took

over the reins from Wagner, 1959.

From Saturday night's reception it's evident he is as much a favorite with the symphony audience as ever. Or as Dunlap said, "We can't be nostalgic without Nat."

Sibbold proved it in a series of songs he titled "Reminiscences," including "Old Man River," "Toreador Song," and "Climb Every Mountain." He closed with several of his favorites, "Some Enchanted Evening," "If Ever I Should Leave You" and "Those Were the Days."

DUNLAP LED the orchestra in other favorites from former years, "Anniversary Waltz" and "Blue Hawaii," as arranged by Deal Fischer; "Hungarian Dances No. 5 and 6," by Brahms; "Pavane for a Dead Princess," by Ravel; and "Tales from the Vienna Woods" by Strauss.

The doneybrook with the violinist and trumpets took place during a so-called tribute to Beethoven (with a few other composers thrown in). This arrangement was put together by orchestra member Max Stroup.

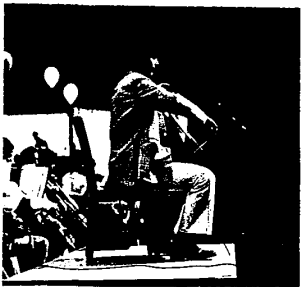
The program ended with the traditional sing-along (and singing along with the symphony is a lot better than singing along with Mitch.) Songs such as "Down by the Old Mill Stream" and "Let the Rest of the World Go By" sent the audience home in an even more reminiscent mood, especially the many out-of-town and out-of-staters who came "home" for the celebration.

Perhaps, there was a mood of thankfulness too, since most concert-goers learned only Saturday in an exclusive Observer Newspapers story, that although Dunlap is leaving his post as director of fine arts at Schoolcraft College, he will commute so he can stay with the symphony.

He will leave Schoolcraft in September to take over the post of music director of Grand Valley State College near Grand Rapids.



NAT SIBBOLD of Plymouth was just as popular a singer with the Plymouth Symphony Saturday night as he was at his first appearance 20 years ago. He's shown singing "Those Were the Days." (Observer photo)



NORMAN FISCHER, now of Oberlin, Ohio, formerly of Plymouth, was upholding a family tradition when he appeared as guest star with the Plymouth Symphony at its pops concert Saturday evening. Fischer played Tchaikovsky's "Variations on a Roccoco Theme." His two sisters-in-law also were soloists with the symphony during its 25th anniversary celebrations just ended. (Observer photo)

## Entertainment Group Seeks Members

Members of the Clarenceville Entertainment Series will hold a coffee on Wednesday, May 26, for school district residents who may be interested in joining the committee for next year. A special invitation is being issued to senior citizens in the district.

The coffee will be held in the Board of Education office beginning at 10:30 a.m.

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## 8 Clarenceville Seniors Get PBK Honors

Eight Clarenceville seniors are among Detroit area students to be honored by the Detroit Association of Phi Beta Kappa at a convocation in Ford Auditorium on May 13.

The students must maintain a 3.8 or better grade point average from a possible 4.0 to be honored by Phi Beta Kappa. They are Carol J. Bornstein, Phyllis Feder, Dorothy J. Killian, Lawrence Kopelman, Janice M. Mills, Christine A. Nicholson, Thomas Tasseff and Deborah E. Zukin.

Students will receive certificate of recognition at Clarenceville's own honors convocation later this spring.

## Carnival Set At Clarenceville

Clarenceville's Chapter of the National Honor Society will sponsor a spring carnival and fair on Saturday, May 22. Featured will be game booths and a car wash. Those wishing to reserve booth space are asked to immediately contact Mrs. Dorothy Bennett at Clarenceville High School.

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