

Mischakoff's Program Notes On The Beethoven



Mischa Mischakoff, Detroit Symphony concertmaster, will be guest soloist with the Plymouth Symphony in its first concert of the season Sunday at 4 p.m. in Plymouth High School. At last week's rehearsal, we talked to the performer and gentle teacher about his music and the piece he will perform—the Beethoven violin concerto.

Stradivarius:

"I'll play the 'Adam' Strad of 1720... It's my favorite instrument. I've been playing it since 1930." (He was concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony at the time and he had to divest himself of several other instruments in order to purchase it.) "According to the world's greatest authority on Strads, Mr. Hill of London, this was one of the best-sounding instruments ever made; that's why I'm using it." (Mischakoff also has two other Strads, the "Otto Booth" and the "General Kydt" as well as a Guarneri.)

On His Interpretation:

"I think my interpretation of the Beethoven concerto is more classical than original. There are artists who can't play any other way but their own individual style. In other words, when Kreisler played Beethoven or Tchaikovsky, it will sound Kreisler. A man of my standing—a concertmaster—I can't afford being that individual, because I have to please the conductor. I play classical music in a classical style, romantic music in a romantic style, modern music in a modern style."



On Where To Sit:

"I've never played in your auditorium. But I think the best spot in any auditorium, the best spot would probably be somewhere in the center; also, if you have a balcony, very often the balcony is the best spot for sound—Ford auditorium, for instance, you hear the orchestra to best advantage in the balcony." (Even though the highest priced seats are on the main floor front?) "Oh, in the Ford auditorium, the first seats in the balcony are almost as much as the front main floor."

On The Beethoven:

"He (Beethoven) wrote the concerto about the middle of his life. The style of the concerto is about the same as fifth symphony. He wrote two romances for violin about the same time—one is opus 40, one opus 50, and the concerto is opus 60, I think... The fifth symphony opens with three notes: dut-dut-dut. And the violin concerto opens: buh, buh, buh, bump bah... Some critics said there was no music in it; there were scales, broken thirds, octaves. But to me, it is the most beautiful in the whole violin repertoire."

On Being A Soloist:

"I became a concertmaster, I think because I didn't have all the nerve. A concert artist must be completely free of fear of the audience. I've always—I used to be nervous. But I've played all my life solo, too, and I've had symphony posts most of the last 35 years."

'Satellite City' Plan: Suburbs Are Warned

By TIM RICHARD
Managing Editor

No, The Observer Newspapers don't have a private pipeline into Detroit's City Hall. No, we had no idea The Detroit News on Oct. 1 would break the story that Mayor Cavanagh is considering annexing territory in Plymouth and Northville Townships for a "satellite city" plan.

No, this writer wasn't psychic in his Oct. 1 column reporting that a number of suburban policy makers want to have their cake and eat it, too, by luring industry but failing to provide homesites for plant workers.

And no, it wasn't a coincidence. It was simply a matter of several minds coming independently to similar conclusions.

"SIMILAR" but not "identical" conclusions. Mayor Cavanagh predicts, somewhat accurately, that Plymouth and Northville residents are likely to oppose the Detroit "satellite city" plan. "The underlying reason would be race," he was quoted as saying.

My hunch is that the mayor

is overly race-conscious, although race is a factor.

The more astute suburbanites, as I get the drift of their thinking, aren't so much concerned about a Negro moving into a \$35,000 house, they're worried about a new bunch of \$20,000 and under houses, no matter who lives in them.

The spoken theories are that the less expensive houses will lead to denser development and thus higher population; that higher population will mean more kids in the schools with less property tax base behind them; that higher population will also mean more cars, hence more traffic problems, hence more taxes. Race isn't necessarily the key factor.

But let's not quibble over whether fear of the Negro is or isn't paramount in suburbanite minds.

THE POINT is that a number of people are taking a long, hard look at the northeast suburban habit of luring factories without providing for housing for plant workers.

Mayor Cavanagh, according to the News, noted that while job opportunities for Detroit's unemployed are opening up in the suburbs, most of the unemployed are Negroes who cannot find housing near these new jobs. The difficulty is compounded by a lack of public transportation.

There are, to be sure, a limited number of inexpensive homes in the suburbs. New or recently built homes, however, are another matter. As you move from Cherry Hill Road to 14 Mile and beyond, the price of the good stuff shoots up.

Meanwhile, the head of social steam in Detroit keeps building up.

THERE'S GOING to be trouble.

A few suburban preachers are going around saying that it's wrong to maintain a lily-white snob system out here. Now Cavanagh's saying it, concealing a plan to break through the socio-municipal curtain.

Cavanagh's plan won't work, of course.

It depends on the Legislature's changing the state law to allow a city to annex non-contiguous territory.

The Legislature won't even change the law to allow Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo to annex territory more easily, let alone Detroit. There'll be a glacier on 12th Street in July before Cavanagh gets that kind of a change in the annexation law.

Cavanagh's plan also assumes it's possible to annex territory in Plymouth Township. Good grief! The City of Plymouth can't do that—let alone the City of Detroit. Plymouth Township keeps things nicely bottled up by continually keeping its own home rule city proposal up in the legal air.

THERE'S GOING to be trouble anyway.

If one plan to integrate suburbs, both racially and economically, goes down the tube, another will be concocted.

The betting odds are that some year Livonia, Plymouth and Farmington will be integrated.

The question is how? Will this or another Cavanagh plan prevail?

Or will suburbanites voluntarily let it happen and do it on their own terms?

Or will a Father Groppi try to do it with a march down Farmington Road and out to Pennington Avenue?

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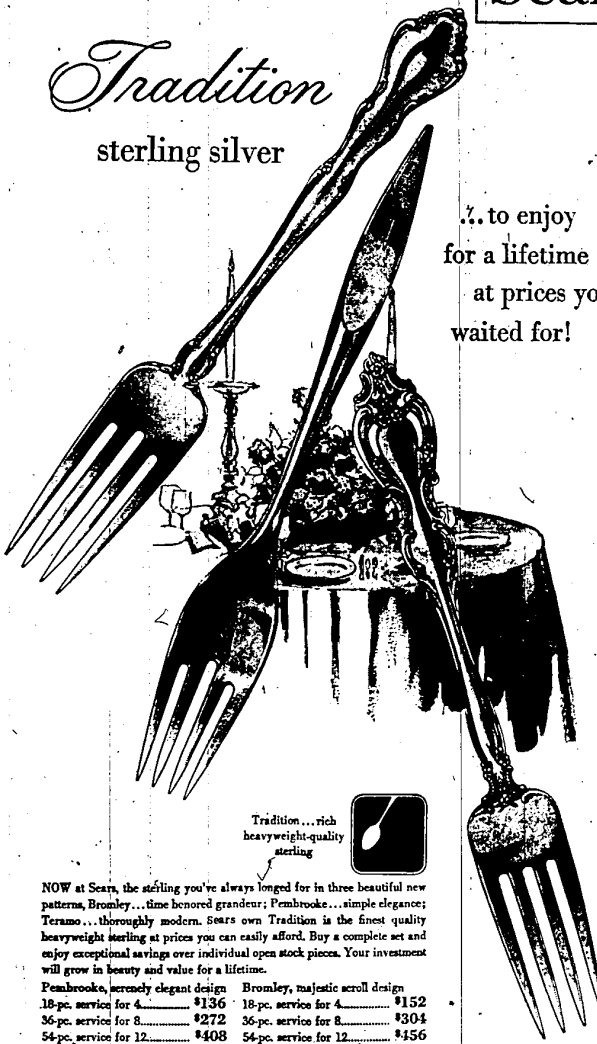
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and 2 regular table-
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1 sugar spoon, and cold
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