

"How Rachmaninoff Evolved The 2nd

"I learned to play the movements of Rachmaninoff's second in reverse order. A lot of young pianists concentrate on the first movement of a concerto, and neglect the others."

"Then he (Instructor Alexander Siloti) told me, 'That's the way Sergei wrote the piece,' he wrote the third, the second and then the first movement."

Pianist Benning Dexter stood in the hallway of Plymouth High School where he had just finished rehearsing with the Plymouth Symphony for today's (Sunday) 4 p.m. concert, the last free concert of the 1967-68 season.

DEXTER THUMBED a heavily annotated score of Rachmaninoff's second piano concerto and talked about the composer, how he had performed

it himself, and the man who had been teacher to both of them—Alexander Siloti. "Don't make too much of that connection," Dexter warned. Siloti, it seems, was in his early 20's when he became the 18-year-old Rachmaninoff's last instructor. Siloti was in his 70's when Dexter studied with him.

"Siloti was Rachmaninoff's cousin. They'd go on tour and take turns—one conducting one night and playing solo the next."

THE RACHMANINOFF second has been the source of two popular songs and is one of the most often recorded pieces of serious music.

Which recording is best? "His own is best," said Dexter. "He made it in 1929 with

Stokowski. I heard him myself in the late '30s."

The score was published after it was composed in the early 1900s, but Rachmaninoff never played it that way.

"He changed his mind about a lot of things," said Dexter, pointing to a tempo marked 66 that Rachmaninoff played at 80, a passage that he played an octave higher to be heard over the orchestra, chords that he played as arpeggios.

"My own interpretation is influenced by his playing and the record. I'm not trying to duplicate it, though. I'm not Rachmaninoff. They broke the mold after him."

BENNING DEXTER, a slender and distinguished looking 33, was born in California and studied at the Juilliard School in New York. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1949 and has been head of its piano department since 1961.

He finds some increase in the popularity of the Baroque, classical, Renaissance, medieval and modern among record-buyers and concert-goers, but he's convinced that the romanticism of the 19th century are holding their own.

"Look at Van Cliburn. Have you ever heard him play anything but the romantic? Oh, he does one Prokofiev concerto."

Cliburn and the late William Kapell he ranks as "wonderful" Rachmaninoff interpreters, adding that Rachmaninoff himself greatly admired the way Vladimir Horowitz played his third concerto.

DEXTER SUMMED IT UP: "A lot of people said, 'After Rachmaninoff died, you watch...' His hand made a tobaganing gesture."

"But that didn't happen. He came on as strong as ever. His works didn't die."

"Siloti said about Rachmaninoff, 'His compositions may not be like Mozart or Beethoven, but his compositions come straight from the heart.'"

"If it has such great appeal to a great many people from many nations, there must be something there."



PIANIST BENNING DEXTER rehearses the Rachmaninoff second piano concerto with Plymouth Symphony conducted by Wayne Dunlap.

Eating Out Costs Fifth Of Food Dollar

If you spend about 20 percent of your food dollars to eat out, you can consider your spending "average."

The cost of food eaten away from home has increased more rapidly than the cost of all other items in the Consumer Price Index. But the proportion of food dollars being spent on food away from home has remained at a fairly constant 20 percent since 1950.

Prices for food bought in restaurants and other away-from-home places, such as institutions, department stores, and private clubs, averaged about five per cent higher this year than in 1966.

Families seem to have adjusted to these rising prices by dining out less often; or if they eat out more often, they spend less per meal. In other words, the total stays about the same.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture Economics Research Service reports that Americans annually spend about \$30 billion for purchased meals.

This figure includes not only meals but snacks, which are counted as away-from-home purchases of between-meal food and beverages or beverage supplements to meals carried home.

The total expenditure represents an average of about \$6 a week per family.

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Trout Season Opens

Biggest fishing event this weekend was the opening of trout season on Saturday, and panfishing is continuing to increase, according to the State Conservation Department district office at Pontiac.

Phoenix Lake near Plymouth will be open for the first time with its new stock of rainbow trout, planted last fall.

Other trout waters that come as good prospects in southeastern Michigan are Cooley, Dear, Elmhurst and Crescent lakes, and Bald Mountain, Davidsburg, Fenton Nos. 1 and 2 and Pettibone trout ponds.

Heavy panfishing pressure continues along the Huron River. Lake Belleville has produced good catches of panfish, including rock bass.

Perch have hit well on the Canadian side of the Detroit River, but there has been little action on the American side. The only action on Lake St. Clair has been a few muskellunge.

"Rough fish are hitting well to a number of rivers."

Democrats To Meet Tuesday

A top state Democratic official will be the featured speaker at a meeting of the 19th Congressional District Democratic organization scheduled for 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 30.

The meeting will be held in Room 210, Farmington East Junior High, Middlebelt between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

The speaker is Paul Donahue, chairman of party development for the Democratic State Central Committee. Donahue is expected to report on the current statewide political scene, according to 19th District Democratic Chairman Aldo Vagnozzi.

The group will also discuss congressional issues with a presentation scheduled of the voting record of Republican Congressman Jack McDonald.

Reports will also be given on the current status of township elections and election of new county boards of supervisors based on the U.S. Supreme Court's recent "one man, one vote" decision.

Mediator Dies

PHILIP WEISS, an attorney and member of the State Labor Mediation Board who was working on the Detroit newspaper strike, died at his home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Weiss was once a member of the Atomic Energy Commission to which he had been appointed by President Eisenhower.

Weiss had devoted most of his time during the past five months to sessions with the various groups involved in the strike.



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Broadcast Workshop Scheduled At EMU

A broadcasting workshop for high school students will be held at Eastern Michigan University from Aug. 4 through Aug. 16 with Singer Buchanan, assistant professor of speech and dramatic arts, as director. The workshop will provide basic training in the techniques, theories and practices of radio and television performance, direction, and programming. Classes will be scheduled in radio and television announcing, directing, producing and acting. All students will have practical experience in each of these areas.

Eastern Michigan facilities, which include radio-television studio classrooms equipped with video cameras, film chain heliograph, audio console, turntables and tape recorder, will be used. The EMU radio studio with a music and library will also serve as a study facility. Special field trips to local and statewide radio and television stations will be planned.

The total cost is \$105 which covers room, board, all instruction and recreational privileges.

The Department of Speech and Dramatic Arts will sponsor four workshops during the summer in theatre, broadcasting, and two in debate.

Registration may be made at the Division of Field Services, EMU, Ypsilanti.

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