

Of Programming

Liszt Cult Likes Choice

By TIM RICHARD

It is altogether fitting that the principal work in the Plymouth Symphony's first concert of the season should be the first piano concerto of Franz Liszt.

For too long Liszt's concertos have been used to fill "the flip side" of LP records - the record company would feature the Grieg concerto or Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" on the cover and toss in a Liszt concerto on the back.

The truth is that Franz Liszt is a musical giant. He was so regarded in his own time (1811-86), and the evidence is that he is enjoying a richly deserved revival.

Soloist with Conductor Wayne Dunlap in Sunday's 4 p.m. concert in Plymouth High School, Joy at Canton Center roads, will be Richard Syracuse, an impressive

young pianist. Syracuse appeared last year and performed the above-mentioned "Rhapsody" with high spirit and remarkable clarity.

THE FRANZ Liszt Cult of Observerland, of which I am the unselected chairman, has enough to turn up these researches on the hero:

Remember when musicians used to be called "long-haired" back in the dim past? Well, it was Liszt who began the long hair fashion in the 19th century.

Have you ever seen a pianist who didn't turn his profile to the audience? Liszt was first to do that. Until Liszt, pianists either faced directly or turned their backs to the audience.

Ever heard of guys named Grieg and Wagner? Liszt popularized them, encouraged and promoted them. If you were a young musician or

composer and got the attention of Franz Liszt, you had it made.

Today, Johann Sebastian Bach is considered one of the titans of music, right? It wasn't always so. Until the early 19th century Bach was just another good composer until Liszt and others discovered him and spread the word.

You think Ronald Reagan, Jane Fonda and Sammy Davis brought the entertainment world into politics? Liszt was ahead of them - and a whole lot better acquainted with philosophy and poetry.

Liszt invented a number of piano techniques that gave new dimensions to the instrument; introduced the concerto whose movements were blended rather than distinct; invented the rhapsody... and so on.

Why did Liszt fade? The greatest pianist of his or any

other day, he is tough to play. More importantly, perhaps, he had a yen for married women, and his biography isn't the kind you give to little girl piano students. A lot of the music history is pitched to the level of little girl piano students.

LISZT is making a comeback.

Georgy Coiffra, the Hungarian pianist who had to skedaddle from the homeland for political reasons, specializes in Liszt. The New York Philharmonic made him the featured composer last year. Raymond Leventhal, in his Romantic Revival series of records, has a Liszt side.

That's why it is altogether fitting that the principal work in the Plymouth Symphony's first concert Sunday is the first piano concerto of Franz Liszt.

amusements



FAMED PIANIST George Shearing and his quintet will give a concert at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22, in Clarenceville's Louis Schmidt Auditorium, 20155 Middle Belt, Livonia. A few tickets, at \$3 each, are still available from Jan Slatin, 20394 Louise, Livonia. The concert is being sponsored by the Clarenceville Entertainment Series, and following it, Shearing will be at Baker's Keyboard Lounge in Detroit.

Organ Society

The Livonia Mall Chapter of the Hammond Organ Society will meet in the Community Room of the mall, Seven Mile and Middle Belt, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 18. Anyone interested in music may attend.

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Arts Council Sponsors Talks By 2 Architects

Because of Southfield's interest in urban planning, building and architecture, the Southfield Arts Council is including a two-part program on architecture in its 1972-73 chapter.

Working with the student chapter of the American Institute of Architecture at the Lawrence Institute of Technology, the council will bring Bruce Goff to Southfield on Saturday, Oct. 14, and Paolo Soleri on Nov. 3.

THE LECTURES will be given in the auditorium of Southfield-Lathrup High School at 8 p.m. Both speakers will conduct seminars at the institute from 1 to 3 p.m. the day of the lecture.

Tickets, good for both the seminars and lectures, are \$4 for the public and \$2.50 for students and arts council members. They may be purchased at the parks and recreation department desk and library at the Civic Center, at Lawrence Tech or from Mrs. Bernard Adinoff, 1817 Goldwin, Southfield.

Tickets for the lecture will be sold at the door for \$3.50.

Architect, painter, writer, lecturer and teacher Goff associates the creativity found in great architecture to that of music, sculpture, painting and literature. He draws parallels

in all the related arts.

Apprenticed at the age of 12 to an architectural firm in Alton, Kans., Goff designed his first house when he was in the eighth grade. At 22, he designed the world-famous Houston Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in Tulsa.

GOFF'S WORK is found in many states and is known throughout the world. He now practices in Tyler, Texas.

An exhibit of his work is being displayed in the Southfield Civic Center and Lawrence Tech until Oct. 13 when it will be taken to the lobby of the lecture hall.

Soleri's architectural experimentation and workshops in Arizona have become a mecca for students from all over the world.

Born and educated in Torino, Italy, he received his degree as doctor of architecture from the Polytechnic of Torino.

Following World War II, he came to the U.S. to work at the Frank Lloyd Wright Fellowship.

In the past 15 years, in addition to work with ceramics and metal, he has devoted his efforts to construction, conducting workshops for students, architectural experimentation and research in urban planning.

It's after 2 a.m.

when you see Mr. Ballman. Then you know the night's over, the last drink served, the last dinner plate removed from the table.

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And he's never missed a night. And there are a lot of people who don't think about going home until they see him moving among the tables, turning the chairs up.

To us, he's more than an employee. He's one of the reasons the Scotch is so very popular.

He's a restaurant person, a professional... And you know what? Mr. Ballman even brings his family to the Scotch when they go out for dinner!

Thanks, Mr. Ballman. We appreciate.

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Arts Program To Be Studied

The Michigan Council for the Arts has awarded a grant of \$3,000 to assist in a pilot educational project in the Wayne-Westland schools.

The grant was made to the Michigan Architectural Foundation to provide matching funds to introduce an awareness program to elementary school children on the characteristics and implications of environmental arts.

The Wayne-Westland schools have been designated for the initial effort for an eventual state-wide program.

For a long time there has been interest on the part of professional architects to present information on architecture, planning, landscape architecture and engineering to school children. Lack of an organized educational program has always hampered such efforts.

The grant, through the foundation and in association with the Michigan Society of Architects, will assist in the development of a program of environmental education by taking a step-by-step approach to test out various program procedures.

The grant was one of 20 totaling more than \$90,000 from the council to Michigan arts organizations.

Casting Call

Russ Vogel Productions will hold auditions for "Peter Pan," to be staged in mid-December.

Tryouts will be held from 6 to 10 p.m., Friday, Oct. 13, in Room 101, Bentley High School, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia. Vogel will direct the play.

All roles are open. Any girl who wishes to read for the role of Wendy should come prepared to read with a neutral English accent. Especially needed are boys between the ages of seven and 13 to play the lost boys.

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What's a nice guy like Dennis Broadhead, hero of many a community theater production, doing misbehaving as a villain?

He's doing very well, thank you, as the despicable Lawyer Gribbs in the Livonia-Redford Theater Guild's production of "The Drunkard."

6 Groups To Play

DETROIT Seven evenings of music, featuring six touring groups from Europe, will be performed in the auditorium of the Detroit Institute of Arts beginning Friday, Oct. 27.

The schedule begins with Les Menestriers, French virtuosos who play and sing music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

It includes the Yuval Trio, a pianist, cellist and violinist from Jerusalem, Nov. 10; Adis and Galaga, the New York chamber soloists performing music by Handel, Dec. 1; Joseph Kalichstein, Tel Aviv pianist who won the 1969 Leventritt Piano Award, Jan. 26.

Troupe Liubliana, the Belgrade Trio Tomic Choir and France Marolt Dancers, Feb. 9; Polish Mime Ballet Theater, the Warsaw company which won the Moscow Gold Medal for its revolutionary repertoire, Feb. 23; and the Mozarteum Orchestra, a group of 45 musicians from Salzburg under the direction of Leopold Hager, March 16.

His power, plus an excellent makeup job, made the scene perfectly believable, even for today's sophisticates.

But the play is a lot of fun as well. It's one to which I'd recommend taking the children, although its one fault is that it's a little long. The children in the audience

Middleton's sweet little daughter, Julia. Shirley Temple fans of the 1930s will especially enjoy her performance. David Tucker shows a real flair for comedy, and John Love is a delight as the rustic, William Dowd.

Watch for the scene at the

Roamin Club Meets Tonight

The Roamin Club, rock and mineral club of Livonia, will meet tonight (Oct. 11) at 7:30 in the Senior Citizens' Building, Room B, Five Mile and Farmington Roads, Livonia.

John Reppert will present a color - sound film "The World of the Rockhound."

On Sunday, Oct. 22, the club will conduct a field trip to Hough Quarry. Frank Clark is the chairman.

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