

Meadow Brook in Review

By PATRICIA BEACH SMITH

why it "is" at all. It bears little relation to the other three movements.

Rachmaninoff created the perfect music setting for the classical concert opening week at the Meadow Brook Music Festival, even if the piano soloist didn't take his cue.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the baton of the Festival's—and the orchestra's—new music director Aldo Ceccato, played the second half of the program with finesse.

It was the second half which saved the concert. Rachmaninoff's symphony No. 2 is rather enigmatic. One wonders why the first movement is the first movement, or better yet,

the program had been played in typical Rachmaninoff interpretation.

This reviewer wishes there had been a little more of the over-romanticizing most pianists choose to slip up Rachmaninoff.

Pianist John Bronfman confuses the issue entirely. At times he appears to be playing Mozart, while at other times he seems to be in Vienna, playing the schmalziness Strauss.

In his playing of Rachmaninoff's concerto No. 2 for piano and orchestra, this confusion was all too apparent. The most disturbing effort was the one he gave to the rubatos and tempes. They were uneven as can be and highly annoying.

ONE COULD SAY that his approach was new, but it certainly was not one to add to the record books. The orchestra was no help to this soloist, who also took incredible liberties with the dynamics and consequently was drowned out frequently and unhappily since so much of the beauty of this work is in the piano.

Subsequently, many of the delicacies of this piece were lost to the rafters, or someplace besides the pavilion.

Federal funding opens wing

Speed-up in hiring laid-off guards through federal funds will enable the Detroit Institute of Arts to open its 15 American galleries in time for the Independence Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday.

The Robert Hudson Tannahill American Wing, just refurbished for the Bicentennial celebration, includes completely renovated rooms in

the authentic 18th century Whitby Hall.

Dr. Frederick J. Cummings, director, suggested that weekend visitors to the Freedom Train might add the Art Institute to their downtown trip. He said that Detroit holdings in American paintings, sculptures and decorative arts represent one of the

finest collections of its type in the country.

The museum's cafe in Kresge Court will also be open, along with the shops and other public conveniences.

Wednesday the Art Institute will commence a reduced five-day weekly schedule and show as many of its 101 galleries as the available security staff will permit. The new public hours will be Wednesdays through Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Admission is free, although a voluntary contribution is suggested.

Dr. Cummings said that a summer program of special events, including adult and children's films, tours, lectures and a return of the popular cafe concerts "Brunch with Bach," is being readied by the museum staff. Funds are now being sought for the popular attractions.

"We plan to create as much excitement as possible to let the public know we are open again, even if partially, and to recover our audience," Dr. Cummings said.

'Nashville Brass' to appear July 4

Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass will headline the Spirit of '76 Country and Western Music Festival, July 4 at Springfield-Oaks Expo, an Oakland County fair in Farmington Hills.

The show will also feature six other nationally known Grand Ole Opry stars.

Bill McGuire, world high diving champion, will open the show at 3 p.m. with a diving exhibition. McGuire will dive from about 100 feet into 6 1/2 feet of water.

The family music festival will be held from 5:30 p.m. until 10 p.m., and will be followed by a fireworks display. Tickets are available at Grinnell, Hudson and Sears stores.

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