

Paul Paray returns in triumph

By PATRICIA BEACH SMITH

The Gallic spirit pervaded the Meadow Brook Music Festival last week, and, true to form, a Frenchman made a whole audience fall in love—with him and his conducting, his programming and his orchestra-for-the-night.

Paul Paray made a triumphant re-entry into Detroit's music community Thursday (Aug. 14) amid screams, cheers and a five-minute standing ovation even before he conducted his much as one note.

At the end of the French Symphony in D-minor, he had the audience and

apparently the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, too, eating out of his hands. His charm was remarkable, but not any more so than the vitality and energy which this young man of 30 so easily exhibited.

THERE WAS NO temerity in his step or his conducting, and one was happy to see an expert lead other experts in their work. The rapport between Paul Paray and the DSO was practically unmatched in this reviewer's experience.

The pulse, the verve and the emotion of the evening almost over-

shadowed the program, which was more interesting Thursday than Saturday. Saturday was like a French version of the Boston Pops, and far less of a musical challenge than Thursday's performance.

The programs were entirely French music. After the French symphony, the orchestra played Ravel's "Daphnis et Chloe," Suite No. 2, Debussy's "Afternoon of a Faun" and two Berlioz pieces. Saturday the fare was lighter, very romantic and designed to please an already tempted audience. Ravel's "Bolero" ended Saturday's program rather magnificently.

THE ORCHESTRA was playing stupendously. The woodwinds, of course,

got a workout at both concerts and they were up to it. Ervin Monroe, Donald Baker, Stephen Labinger, Clement Barone, Paul Schaller, Robert Williams and Lyell Lindsey played beautifully in solo and ensemble along with the horn section which was also well exercised.

The impish Paray, sometimes with hands on hip while conducting, seduced the audience into loving every minute of his routine, including some well-traveled theatrics. On him they looked natural, however.

Standing ovations, bravos and encore calls ended each of the two concerts. Getting Maestro Paray back was a coup for Marshall Turkun, manager of the DSO. Vive La France!

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