

Concert memorializes Phil Hart

By SHIRLEE IDEN

A long standing love affair between Phil Hart and the people of Michigan was evident Tuesday as hundreds gathered to pay tribute to his memory.

"I'm here because I loved Phil Hart," said Maine Senator Edmund Muskie during the brief program during intermission of a Detroit Symphony Orchestra concert at Ford Auditorium.

The Hart Memorial Concert was planned in accordance with the late senator's request that a scholarship fund at Lake Superior State College be his only memorial.

Muskie's words echoed the sentiment of those who came to carry out that dying wish. Few in that audience would have disagreed.

Everybody who is somebody will be there, a local telecaster remarked earlier and there was an outpouring of somedibles, from the most distinguished public servants to the simplest citizen. All were somedibles in Phil Hart's eyes.

FIRST LADY Roselyn Carter flew from Washington with Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal, Muskie, and former senator Eugene McCarthy and others for the concert. It was the first such public appearance Mrs. Carter has agreed to make since her husband was inaugurated two months ago.

Senator Hart's widow, Jane Briggs Hart introduced the First Lady who was dressed in a simple ice blue long



PHIL HART

gown with fitted sleeves and a high muckturtle neck.

"I did not know Phil Hart personally," Mrs. Carter said. "But I knew of his goodness and his inspiration. He was a superb example to every one of us as a public servant and as a good man."

Mrs. Carter attended a dinner and reception at the Detroit Plaza Hotel in the Renaissance Center before the concert. She was escorted into Ford Auditorium by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young.

Sen. Donald Riegle, who won Hart's seat in last November's election, praised the Hart family as one of the late senator's most beautiful legacies and referred to Hart's "justice, equality, loving, caring independence of thought and decency in all things."

Sen. Robert Griffin quipped that none should think him a token Republican for being there.

"Lots of Republicans are here tonight. The center aisle in the senate divided us politically, but it never interfered with our friendship," he said.

Four standing ovations were accorded the participants during the program, three to women—Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Carter and petite Ann Hart, the senator's daughter and soprano soloist for the concert.

The fourth ovation was for former governor and now State Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen Williams whose narration of Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait" closed the concert.

Williams, in whose administration Hart served as lieutenant governor, presented Miss Hart with a spray of red roses after her performance and encore. Miss Hart made her professional debut just weeks ago in a Michigan Opera Theatre production of "The Magic Flute."

Hart, a Pennsylvanian who came to Michigan to earn a law degree, settled in the state to practice law and ultimately enter the political arena. He served in state offices, as U. S. District Attorney in Detroit, as lieutenant

governor and was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1978. There he served three six-year terms earning the respect of his colleagues and his constituents and the honorary title "conscience of the senate."

On Dec. 26 at age 64, Phil Hart died of cancer.

Suomi choir set to sing

The Suomi College Choir will present a concert at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 1, in Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 23425 Lahser in Southfield.

A 41-member a capella student choir, directed by Grace Spenberg, will sing in Southfield as part of their 1977 spring tour.

Earlier tours have taken the choir throughout the United States, Canada and to Finland.

The 1977 tour concert program presents "Make Thou In Me, God," by Johannes Brahms; "Adoramus Te," by Giovanni P. de Palestrina; "All Breathing Life," by Johann Sebastian Bach; and other numbers.

Guest artist Helvi Kangas plays the ancient Finnish kantele folk harp to accompany the choir. Kangas received a masters in music from the University of Michigan and studied ancient Finnish music at the Sibelius Academy in Finland.

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Board considers new trustee, budget, millage

Members of the Southfield Board of Education will meet Thursday evening to examine school millage proposals and the 1977-78 school year budget. Board members may also vote to appoint a new trustee to fill the vacancy of Robert Schwarz who is living the board after three years to take a job Milwaukee.

The board will meet for a public hearing at 7 p.m. in House B Cafeteria, Southfield High School. During the meeting board members are expected to discuss proposals for the June 13 millage election and the upcoming school budget.

At 8 p.m., during a specially-called meeting of the board, the school board will examine the impact of the new Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act.

In other action, the board will rule on a new contract for Supt. Carl Hassel and the appointment of a new school board trustee. The board member will serve with the school board until a new member can be elected June 13 to fill the remaining one year of the four-year term.

Both meetings are open to the public. Southfield High School is at Lahser and Ten Mile roads.

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