

# Quintet receives warm welcome

Members of the Pastiche Wind Quintet, now more than three months into their year-long residency at the Centro de la Cultura in Santiago, Chile, report they have received a warm and enthusiastic welcome.

They were invited to Santiago because of their success in taking chamber music to the people of metropolitan Detroit.

Margarita Luna, director of the Centro de la Cultura, discovered Pastiche and invited them to develop the same kind of audience awareness and appreciation in her country. She is in Michigan in June, invited by the Partners of the Americas of Michigan to select a group of musicians for the project.

"I was immediately aware that this ensemble possessed a remarkable quality for communicating their talents to the listeners and I also perceived their ideals were our ideals," she said.

The group's debut concert in the Centro de la

Cultura received rave reviews from the local press.

After performing at the Superior Institute of Agriculture, Fulbright scholar Hunt Hobbs, director of agricultural business and management training, wrote:

"Our students have never been exposed to a woodwind quintet, or much else other than local popular music. The administration and I felt that this was a unique opportunity to bring a cultural as well as a highly entertaining event to our students.

"The concert was remarkable not only for its superior musicianship, but also as a memorable educational experience. The program demonstrated music from many periods and the students showed their sincere appreciation that the presentation was given in their native tongue by the American musicians who arrived here only two months ago."

Besides teaching and performing throughout the

Dominican Republic, the quintet has plans to perform in Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. The musicians are flutist Susan Ivers Barna, oboist Katherine Cossar, clarinetist Bradley Wong, bassoonist Thomas Sefcovic and French horn player Elizabeth Watson.

Sefcovic, who was back home for the holidays, said each of the musicians lived with a family for the first month and their use of Spanish made a quick and dramatic improvement. Now each is comfortable with the language, even to teaching music in Spanish.

Saying that so far it has been a remarkable and rewarding experience for the musicians, Sefcovic said he has many talented students, "most of whom are self-taught."

The quintet's long-range plans are not formulated, but so far, the year in Santiago, which was an unknown quantity late last summer, has so far been an enriching experience for all of the Americans.

## New music dictionary merits landmark status

By GENE BARNES

In 1969, a group of musicologists headed by Stanley Sadie set about revising the legendary Grove Dictionary, then in its fifth edition (1954) and sporting nine volumes and a supplement.

Eleven years and countless man-hours later, the New Grove (so named because so little of the previous material was retained) has at last arrived. As one might expect, it is exhaustive in the extreme, documenting every aspect of human musical endeavor without regard to tradition, national or cultural boundaries.

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, in 20 volumes, is edited by Stanley Sadie, published by Macmillan and costs \$1,900.

Need a musical history of Tibet? The New Grove has 12 pages on that region, plus articles and photographs on each instrument mentioned and a complete bibliography.

Care to know more about J.S. Bach's youngest son, Johann Christian? Again, 12 pages, five of which list all his known compositions.

Do your tastes run to rock or jazz? Articles on the Beatles, Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis feature in-depth musical analyses of some of their most representative work.

See what I mean?

If the New Grove has any significant failing, it is that many of the articles, especially those concerning contemporary performers, rely rather heavily on the opinions of contributing authors.

For instance, in his article on British

conductor Adrian Boult, Ronald Crichton has observed, "There are nights when the physical impact of his conducting is low." A dictionary is no place to take a pot-shot at an artist's offshoots.

Considering the gabfests occasionally encountered, then, it is surprising not to find an attendant sense of humor. But an air of sustained sobriety persists throughout the New Grove.

The article on Gilbert and Sullivan contains, for example, many references to Sullivan's excellent musical parodies and satires. But never does one come to feel, through the style of the narrative, the really hilarious heights Sullivan could attain.

Those relatively trifling concerns aside, it should be noted that the freshness of the work is altogether quite exhilarating. Some nice touches include:

- A habit of publishing rare photographs of some famous composers in their youth (Brahms at 17, Faure at 19, Tchaikovsky at 24).
- Listing lost and unpublished works in composers' catalogs, and, when published, the work's publisher.
- A lively survey of popular music from the 19th century, through the importance of the invention of the phonograph (with the reproduction of a telling advertisement for an early Edison) and all the way up to the Sex Pistols rock group.
- An unwavering commitment to order and clarity in its presentations.
- If you have an interest in music — anything from the musical life of Aachen, Germany, to Chopin's teacher, Wojciech Zywny — run to your local library and look it up in the New Grove.

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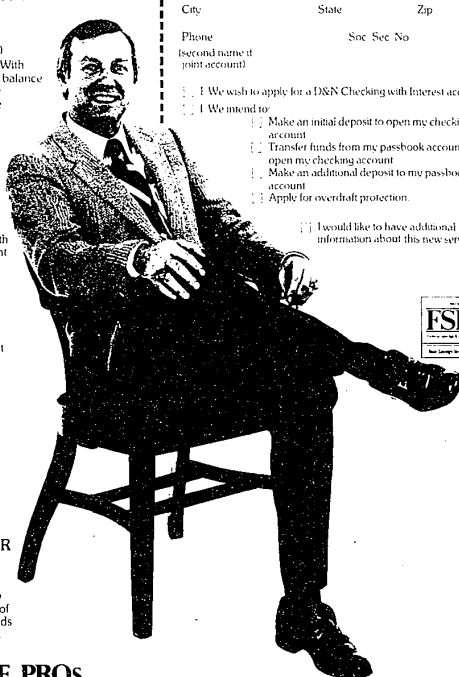
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