

# Serpent horn trio spoofs serious music

By Joanne K. Psenka  
special writer

The London Serpent Trio treated the holiday weekend audience at Somerset Mall to a tongue-in-cheek spoof of traditional music decorum. The musicians play on authentic period horns aptly described by their name.

On this first U.S. tour, they're bringing that brand of British humor made popular by the 1950s BBC "Goon Show."

All three horns have an intriguing snake-shaped curve. While the serpent horn lacks the full tonal register of its cousin, the bassoon, the cleaver range of sound effects which these musicians produce is both entertaining and baffling.

Mall manager Peg DeBois, acting as master of ceremonies, called the performance a rare event. "In all the world this trio is one-of-a-kind," she said.

## review

A patriotic air, "Regnum Britannicus," launched an amusing historical tribute to the British sovereign. It was a respectful statement done with precision. This national song is revered by Britons.

"Greenleaves" was melodious with a regular glissando rhythm. Here the sounds were beautifully resonant.

In "On Wings of Song," the serpent horns took on a bassoon quality. Atonal cadences abound in this work, but the easy glides from one tone to another suggested a medieval mode.

THE AMAZING NONCHALANCE

with which the trio spun the tale of "My Grandfather's Clock" attested to their skillful command of this anachronistic instrument. Good percussive triple timing created firing squad impact and good audience rapport in "Sweet and Low."

In "A Hunting Song," the three horns competed in the flurry of the break-neck chase with fanfare and trilled flourishes. This song was stirring and harmonious and it was obvious that the trio relished playing it.

In Mozartian tradition, the trio performed a light skipping air, perfect for the spirit of the spring season. The ca-

dences were slightly unclear and the agenda lagged, but there were moments of inspired feeling.

The following work overlaid a bass continuo with counterpoint. The melody shone discretely and the continuo was pleasant. Most of the music played had been rearranged from the wealth of works for recorders and vocal scores. Bach's works are adaptable to this horn trio.

BESIDES UNDERSTATEMENT, exaggeration deftly done was a forte of the musical jokes posed by The London Serpent Trio. The most important ingredient of this style of humor is the demand for dispassionate portrayal. Unaffectedly, they poked real fun at the music-lover and the performer who makes music such serious business.

It would have been helpful to have had a program and possibly some program notes to follow.

## Neighbors' fund-raiser set May 5

Informal modeling of clothes by Saks Fifth Avenue in Fairlane Town Center will run through out the afternoon of lunch and card playing for Farmington Neighbors Club's spring fund-raiser.

The event begins with cocktails at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 5, in Pine Lake Country Club. The group stages one benefit a year with proceeds going to a local agency or non-profit organization. Tickets are \$11 each, which includes valet parking. They are available by calling Harriet Pell at 553-3775.

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The victim feels pain and burning in the foot and a tiredness and aching pain in the legs. He or she cannot stand or walk for any length of time. Painful calluses may grow on the ball of the foot because the front metatarsal arch falls, as well.

Check yourself for fallen arches by looking for a "hump" of your feet. Or, stand before a mirror and observe the backs of your bare feet. Notice whether the heel tendons bow inward toward each other. This is Heilig's sign.

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