

Blomstedt conducts for 2 more weeks

By Agvidor Zaromp
special writer

Herbert Blomstedt conducted the first Detroit Symphony Orchestra program of 1983 amidst a flurry of rumors and approval.

Born in Springfield, Mass., Blomstedt moved with his parents to Stockholm at an early age, so his background is mostly Scandinavian.

Currently he is the music director and conductor of the Dresden Staatskapelle, as well as the conductor of the Swedish Radio Orchestra.

Judging by this performance, we are fortunate to have him here for two more programs. There are even rumors that he might be considered for the position of music director, but this is still a painful subject.

The program's content proved to be rather lopsided. It consisted of the Variations on a Theme by Haydn by Brahms, Concerto No. 1 for Violin and Orchestra by Haydn in C Major and the Symphony No. 4 by Tchaikovsky. The violin solo part was played by Israeli violinist Miriam Fried.

THE UNUSUAL aspect of the program was the relatively small scale of Haydn's violin concerto. This work which is infrequently performed, had its Detroit Symphony Orchestra debut in this performance. While it definitely doesn't measure up against the more celebrated Beethoven and Brahms violin concertos, both in orchestral scope as well as in musical significance, it was a welcome change from the all too familiar "war horses."

However, being sandwiched between two large-scale orchestral masterpieces undermined the im-

Gallery to host multi-media event

Schwayer-Galdo Galleries, 330 Hamilton Row, Birmingham, will host a multi-media event in conjunction with the opening of a new show starting at 6 p.m. Jan. 20.

The exhibit will include abstract works by five

Lamps shed light on new career

Kyle Spencer's light touch with lamps has resulted in national distribution of an unusual line of lighting fixtures.

Spencer, a 1979 University of Michigan fine arts graduate, is a sculptor and glass artist. He studied at the Penland School. His parents, Iris and Robert Spencer, live in Bloomfield Township.

Spencer has a loft/studio in New York City. Six of the lamps he designed, using ordinary objects, most found around the house — a paint can, domino, block, paint roller and tray, bare bulb and fire hose — are the take-off point for Spencer's designs.

These are now being manufactured for distribution by Alsy-Cycle II and are available in the lamp department of Bloomingdale's in Manhattan. Prices range from \$20 to \$60.

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review

pect it might have otherwise generated. Possibly, the soloist's role could have been enhanced by adding to the program another short violin concerto, for which one of the Bach violin concerti could have been a perfect candidate.

In addition, Tchaikovsky's symphony could have been replaced with a work on a smaller scale, like a Mozart symphony.

In spite of these limitations, Fried came through as a brilliant artist and musician. Her tone quality was fresh and clear and her artistic expression endowed this composition with grace and musical charm. While her style, with its vigor and forcefulness, had some romantic-era flavor to it, it went a long way toward bringing this composition to life.

THE BRAHMS variations were an example of a fine performance, with well-shaped crescendos. Some of the softer variations, however, were a trifle too harsh; this seemed to be the case with the variations in minor mode. The converging themes in the final variation were most impressively portrayed.

The Symphony No. 4 by Tchaikovsky is one composition that can easily be exaggerated. This performance, however, was characterized by extreme precision, accuracy and control, without compromising the intrinsic momentum. One will seldom hear a more coordinated and expressive massive

painters and two sculptors. Five of the artists will hold an informal discussion, 7-8:30 p.m. There will be atonal music. Guests are invited to call for reservations if they would like to attend the discussion, 647-0390. The preview will be 6-7 p.m.

pizzicato, as called for in the scherzo.

The energetic and stormy finale was clear and organized even in the most loud and massive segments. The conclusive, tempestuous bars, which clearly tend to elicit a loud applause on most occasions, were, nevertheless, uncompromisingly clear and under control. In this instance, the standing ovation was well deserved.

This week's program will have a definite Scandinavian character. With Blomstedt at the podium again, it will feature works by Berwald, Sibelius and Nielsen.

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Varani signs contract with Bay View Festival

Oakland University pianist Flavio Varani recently signed a contract for of music selects 24 music students as the 1983 summer season with the Bay View Music Festival. A portion of those receiving the awards will study piano with Varani. Those interested may write the Bay View Music Festival, Box 322, Alma, 48801.

He will perform as soloist, with the Bay View Piano Trio and as a member of a duo-piano team. He will also teach seven weeks after which he will be appearing at the International Chamber Music Festival, Munich, West Germany, June 20-24.

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