

Chamber Players head toward success

By Avigdor Zarom
special writer

The newly formed Renaissance City Chamber Players have been in the headlines for the past few months. Misha Rachlevsky, founder and musical director of the group, is understandably very proud of this project.

On various occasions he has indicated that he expects this group to match and even surpass some of the finest chamber ensembles in the country. While such an evaluation might seem overly ambitious for a neutral observer, a positive attitude is essential for the success of such a venture.

The moment of truth finally arrived last week. The actual program was preceded by presentations and commendations on behalf of the Governor, the State Legislature, the City of Detroit and local organizations. The ceremonies culminated

review

with the playing of the National Anthem, with a contingent of Marine Guard present on stage.

All of that, fanfare and hoopla, however, is no substitute for the real thing. The program itself showed promise and potential. One of the factors crucial for this series is plenty of rehearsal time, a fact that Rachlevsky had stressed on many occasions. In this performance, that approach tended to be vindicated.

THE PROGRAM consisted of works by Telemann, Mozart, Bartok, Hartway and Tchaikovsky. The work by James Hartway, a prominent

composer in our area, was composed for this occasion and deliberately left untitled — the title to be supplied by the listeners in a contest.

It featured a combination of popular tunes — "Evening in Moscow" — "Stars and Stripes Forever" by Sousa and a Motown tune. These were supposed to symbolize Rachlevsky's arrival in this country from the Soviet Union and his integration into the American Society.

Telemann's "Don Quixotte" Suite is one of the less familiar works on a familiar topic. Due to its nature as program music, the description of the events in the story was emphasized and the portrayal was convincing.



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