

All Stravinsky program serves a purpose

By Avigdor Zoromp
special writer

Conductor Laureate of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Antal Dorati, is

one of those few conductors who are instrumental in the promotion and exploration of different domains of music, that are for most part unloved.

During his tenure here as music di-

rector, he did a lot to make the audience aware of the music of Bartok and Stravinsky, with works other than familiar ones.

Stravinsky is one composer who has

evoked Dorati's interest for many years. Among his more famous works, the "Firebird" and "Rite of Spring" have been recorded by the Maestro with the DSO.

Last week's program was exclusively dedicated to the early works by Stravinsky, which are seldom performed. These consisted of the Scherzo Fantastique Op. 3, the "Apollo" ballet and the Symphony in E Flat, Op. 1. It was the first performance of "Apollo" by the DSO. The others were performed here on only one previous occasion.

The failure to perform these works more frequently isn't a total miscarriage of justice. By all indications, they don't reach the profound level of his later works and are heavily influenced by earlier styles and trends of other composers.

However, they are important in terms of understanding the background and development of a composer who has left one of the most significant marks on the music of this century.

Some works that are unknown to the audience at large are also unknown to many of the performing musicians, whose wide range isn't infinite.

The work that tended to suffer most from this unfamiliarity was the "Apollo" ballet. There was the overall impression that preoccupation with the notes and their unpredictable direction was a dominant factor in this performance. Among the exceptions were the solo parts by concertmaster, Gordon Staples and principal cellist, Italo Babin.

Unlike the case with a work like the "Firebird," the last of an actual ballet setting tended to detract from this performance. Nevertheless, the exposure to this music was well worth the compromise in the performance, which should undoubtedly improve in the future.

The opening Scherzo Fantastique was delightful in its bouncy main theme and its Wagnerian middle part. The symphony tends to suggest so many influences of other composers that everybody tends to come up with a different list.

Among the ones that I noticed frequently were Rimsky-Korsakov, Wagner and Richard Strauss, besides the admitted influence by Glazunov.

The familiar styles, whatever their origin, tended to result in a rich orchestral sound and balance, even though there were few passages and entrances that were flawed.

Most important, however, is the fact that this program was a learning experience for audience and performers alike.

Bag the geraniums in plastic

It is difficult to think that winter will be coming. The leaves are almost all fallen. Just remember the enjoyment of their beauty was an early payment for raking and bagging them, now.

This calendar cycle puts us in the mood to report our indoor plants. I would advise that you buy bag of geraniums for this purpose. You will find that many potted plants need shifting to larger containers.

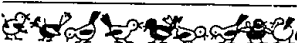
NEVER report a plant in the same or larger container which has not been washed out with warm water, plus Clorox or something like it to assure a clean receptacle.

An ideal way to do this job is with a card table, covered with several layers of newspaper, and a large bucket for rinsing out dusty pots and containers to be re-used. A scrub brush makes the job easy and if you plan to circulate in society, wear rubber gloves.

IT IS always a temptation to dig up a few geraniums and bring them in for some enjoyment. You can hold them over for another year if you prune them down after the last flower. I will admit they aren't too beautiful as the season progresses, but you can hold them over.

Sorrows guild hosts auction

Our Lady of Sorrows School Guild annual auction runs from 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Nov. 10 in the school building on Powers Road. About 350 items will go up for bid during the event that raises funds to insure quality education in both Sorrows Elementary and Beahan Junior High School.



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down to earth Alice Burlingame

Today I heard of a new idea passed on by Ann Bryant who has had superb results by the following method of preserving her beautiful summer geraniums.

First secure a large dark colored plastic bag and gingerly lift the geraniums up with a shovel, shake the dirt off the plant and remove any existing blooms. You can drop into it at least 12 plants into the bag. Now close the bag tightly and place in a storage area which is not heated, but not cold enough to freeze the contents.

In early spring you may wish to pot them up, provide a good meal of fertilizer and, by the way, cut down the total height and remove any leaves that look "weary."

Give them good soil, some fertilizer, and endearing words, and soon you will have fine plants for the next season, as reported by Ann Bryant.

I HAVE been debating about using straw in our courtyard at the end of the season, but I question who knows when

It is the end of the season. I can just visualize rodents and squirrels enjoying the straw-covered beds. I guess I'll hold that idea in the question box.

I am looking forward to a trip to the National Garden Writers Meeting in Anaheim, Calif. The wheelers and dealers will be there to sell their garden wares. The book sellers will be in evidence. We will visit and observe the flowers and vegetables of "tomorrow."

We will see seed farms which have the splendor of a beautiful Roman striped gown of various colors against a mountainous backdrop. We will receive instruction from the pruning artists of Dineyworld who create spectacular animals with their pruning shears.

There will be many gardens to visit of spectacular design on private estates. What a joyful profession it is to be a garden writer with eyes tuned to the glory of nature.

TV's Heritage series supplemented in library

Farmington Hills Branch Library offers a brown bag lunch and discussion program to culminate and supplement the nine-part PBS Channel 56 series, "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews."

The get-together for lunch, discussion and sharing begins at noon Tuesday, Nov. 20 in the library at 32737 12 Mile Road. Coffee and tea will be provided.

The Heritage series traces the 5,000 year story of civilization through the fortunes and developments of a small group of seminomadic people who witnessed the rise of great empires, their collapse and the emergence of Europe as the focus of western culture.

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