

Chamber players deserve attention

By Ruth Zarom
special writer

Boris Berman, soloist at last week's Renaissance Chamber Players' concert, graduated with distinction from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory as both a pianist and a harpsichordist. He immigrated to Israel and there created one of the country's most successful concert series, "Music Spectrum."

He is on staff at Yale University and will present "Music Spectrum" in New York City under the auspices of Yale University this year. Berman appeared with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at the Meadow Brook Festival two years ago.

Berman, performed Bach's Concerto in D minor in a style that wasn't as strict in its interpretation as some purists might prefer. Yet, it was a radical stylistic departure that lost the feeling of Bach.

THEY WAS more legato in his playing than more strict phrasing would warrant, but he used the pedal sparingly, retaining a great deal of crispness.

His overall technique and feeling for the rhythmic nuances were excellent. He was always in tune with the Chamber Players, entering right on cue and blending with the playing of the group to perfection.

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In many places in the first movement, he blended with the others rather than playing over them. His interpretation of the second part was impressive where he let the piano stand out with the delicate melody creating a contrast with the playing of the strings.

IN MOZART'S Piano Concerto No. 8 in C, the interpretation of the first part was most impressive. Berman gave it a rolling style.

Rameau's Sixième Concert, "La Poule," has been immortalized by Respighi in his suite "The Birds," which uses the first movement of the Rameau work. This performance had grace and insight.

Haydn's Symphony No. 57 in D, was the last piece of the evening. The second part of the concerto had its own

alarm system to wake everyone up. First, one of the horns was off-key, then Marla Smith broke a G string and somebody else's music dropped. Rachelevsky aptly called a minute break to fix matters.

This program had more quality to it and a substantially higher standard than many of the others this season. With three to go, it is hoped that this is

a turning point in the downward attendance trend. By all indications, these final programs should prove worthy of a better response.

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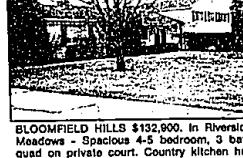
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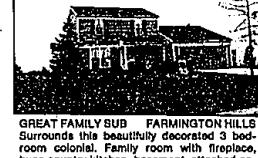
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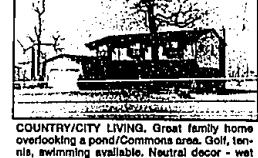
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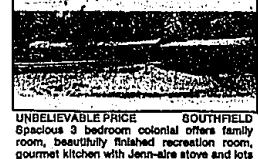
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