

# Halloween spoof had serious undercurrents

Attendance was very heavy at the special Halloween program presented by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians last Saturday at Orchestra Hall.

On the surface this was simply a merry Halloween celebration with traditional fun and some extra treats.

However, there was another

"phantom," which is very much alive. It was distinct from the more entertaining "Phantom of Orchestra Hall," which was roaming around the hall, making funny noises until finally cornered. The orchestra is still in the midst of a work stoppage due to a contract dispute with the management. This program was one of several fund-raisers organized by

the musicians during this difficult period.

The conductor was the multi-talented Charles Greenwell, music director of WQJR, where he also serves as a host for several hours each week.

A festive spirit dominated most of the evening. Musicians and members of the audience came with ingenious disguises. Suddenly, darkness descended and amid ominous vapors one could hear ghoully sounds of hollow laughter. Finally, a coffin

was brought on stage, its cover menacingly sliding off and the spooky creature inside making its appearance, just like in the movies. That's how Maestro Greenwell chose to make his entrance.

ALL THE selections had to do with ghosts and spirits. Some of them, such as "Night on a Bald Mountain" by Moussorgsky, "Danse Macabre" by Saint Saens and movements from the Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique were among the expected selections, along with "The



**Avigdor Zaromp**

Sorcerer's Apprentice," which is a must. But there were also some lesser known works — the tone-poem, "Le Chasseur Maudit" by Frank and pieces by Malcolm Arnold and Lisov.

If Moussorgsky's "Night on a Bald Mountain" sounded more spine-chilling than usual, some of it may be attributed to the atmosphere. The orchestral shrieks seemed to be more pronounced than usual. One of the peaks of the evening was reached when Stacey Woolley, violinist and chief negotiator for the DSO, made his appearance on stage.

After having announced that Maestro Gunther Herbig, music director, was unable to attend, Woolley greeted the audience on Herbig's behalf. Woolley, thinly disguised as Herbig, wore a grey toupee and amused the audience with his imita-

tion of Herbig's German accent.

The Maestro himself turned out to be present. When he stood up in his box making "menacing" motions, Woolley exclaimed, "Your costume seems to be even better than mine," to which Herbig replied that he got it at Woolworth's.

When the laughter subsided, Woolley switched to a less festive subject — the work stoppage. According to the figures he presented, the management was seeking originally to save \$700,000 by an 11 percent salary cut. However, the sum saved by management so far and the loss to the musicians already amounts to one million, according to Woolley, and there were still no new negotiations scheduled.

Finally, Woolley, stated that the musicians also believed in a balanced budget and would therefore offset their losses with a surplus of commitment and dedication to quality that would retain the DSO rank among the top 10, where it belongs. By its very nature, this is the type of event in which the quality of the performance would take second place to that of fun and entertainment. However, the quality of the performance turned out to be respectable as well.



New York dancers Myrna Packer and Art Bridgman will give a performance at 3 p.m. Sunday at Oakland University's Varner Recital Hall. They have performed together since 1978 and do their own choreography. They have received four National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellowships and have performed widely in Europe and the United States. Tickets, \$10 general admission, \$6 seniors and children and \$5 OU students, are available at the door.

## Party to benefit Harbinger dance

Harbinger Dance Company, in cooperation with WJZZ-FM, presents "City Lights — Moving Sights" Wednesday. The evening includes cocktails, dinner, dessert and a special dance concert to benefit Detroit's leading dance troupe.

Guests will park in the Joe Louis Garage and travel around downtown on Detroit's People Mover, with their first stop at the Millender Center's Omni Hotel Skywalk for pre-dinner cocktails.

Then they will board the People Mover and travel to the lobby of the David Whitney Building for a special performance by Harbinger.

The main course will be prepared and served by Detroit's newest restaurant, the On Stage, in Grand Circus Park. Once again, guests will take the People Mover to conclude their meal at the Pontchar train Hotel with dessert and coffee. They will then board the People Mover one final time for a trip back to the parking area.

Harbinger was founded in 1970, and became an invited member of the National Association of Regional Ballet in 1981. The company performs works by nationally known choreographers in styles ranging from neoclassic and jazz to abstract.

Harbinger members are classically trained, yet the company's trademark is exuberant humor. They have performed at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Orchestra Hall, Music Hall and with the Detroit Symphony, as well as on tour in 25 Michigan communities.

The tax deductible donation of \$50 will help Harbinger Dance Company. Call 417-7011 for reservation information.

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