

Cerone performance a cultural coup

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Conventional wisdom is right. Stereo records and a good radio aren't enough. You need to hear live performances to appreciate music fully.

Take last Sunday's Oakway Symphony Orchestra concert. Two works on the program are extremely difficult to record successfully.

Centerpiece was Ernest Chausson's "Poème," a rhapsodic work for orchestra solo violin featuring David Cerone.

My own library has a disc by Jascha Heifetz, a titan among giants to fiddle players. But Chausson's orchestration is so subtly shaded that a recording turns to mud. In the flesh, so to speak, one can appreciate this late 19th century virtuoso work far more.

Where Heifetz is the most brilliant technical violinist of the century, Cerone features a lush tone—broad, rich, very strong. Cerone handles a French work like this entirely to this listener's satisfaction. And the difficult gyrations between single notes and double-steps—

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well, he made it look easy. OAKWAY CONDUCTOR Francesco DiBlasi heard Cerone at a recent festival and swears Cerone, a teacher and president of the Cleveland Institute of Music, outshone some concert specialists on the program.

I believe. Cerone is due to repeat this work with the Cleveland Orchestra, one of this continent's five greatest. It was, then, a cultural coup for Oakway to capture him for a show in Farmington Harrison High.

Antonio Vivaldi, the 17th century Italian master, also is difficult to record because a string soloist often plays with rather than against the small string orchestras for which Vivaldi wrote.

In the flesh, again, it was an extra treat to hear and see a Vivaldi triple concerto, the kind of ensemble work that few musical directors besides DiBlasi program.

In this case, Linda Cerone played

first violin, husband David second, with local cellist Richard Pilpo rounding out the ensemble.

The triple isn't Vivaldi's most memorable concerto, not in a class with the onomatopoeic "Four Seasons." But it's still a treat to chamber fans to witness the interaction of the two violins with each other, of Pilpo with the cello section and the trio with the orchestra.

You don't get that on radio or in recordings. You don't even capture it on the rare occasions when television presents baroque music.

All of which is a roundabout way of saying it was a "fun" afternoon. Oakway's audience, one of the larger and more appreciative of the season, seemed to agree.

IT WAS A program of great variety, too, a DiBlasi special with works by an Italian, a Frenchman, a German (Bach) and a Finn (Sibelius). The series of shorter works also was a welcome break from the overture/concerto/symphony triptych that many conductors stick to.

After a slightly ragged opening, the orchestra warmed up to Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 2, a work demanding sonority in the strings, togetherness in the brass and ex-

posure for the woodwinds.

Community orchestras have their ups and downs, and this is an up year for Oakway. The numbers in the viola and cello sections could be greater, but the coordination.

One acid test of a string section is posture. Good posture doesn't guarantee good sound, but bad posture guarantees bad sound.

This viewer appreciates the textbook poses of concertmaster Emily Mutter Austin, fifth-chair violinist Brenda Thalacker (the young-looking lady with white hair), principal cellist Teri Bennett and principal violinist Lynn Route. Take the string student in your family to an Oakway concert and point out these performers.

The one disappointment was the printed program.

First, the opening suite was by Bach, but the program failed to say which (it was J.S.).

Second, Pilpo's name was misspelled throughout. Third, there were no program notes. Bach and Vivaldi may be household words, but Chausson deserved an introduction to the audience, and Sibelius required a refresher.

briefly speaking

• YW-REDFORD BENEFIT

The Northwest YWCA will host a benefit performance of the award-winning Australian movie "My Brilliant Career" at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 in the restored Redford Theater.

The evening will begin with a champagne reception and organ concert on the Redford Theater pipe organ by Sharon Patterson. The film, which was the winner of six Australian Academy Awards, including one for best picture, will begin at 8:15 p.m. Money raised from the gala evening will be used to maintain the operation of the Northwest YW in Redford as a community service organization.

The public is invited. Patron tickets are \$25 per person and general admission is \$10. The theater is at 17360 Lahser. Valet parking will be provided. Call the YW at 537-8500 to reserve tickets.

• ART AUCTION

The Arts Alliance Group (TAAG) will host "The Incredible Art Auction" Saturday at Technicolor/CBS Fox, Seven Mile Road, west of I-275 in Livonia. The gala event will start with a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception for patrons only and general preview at 7 p.m., followed by the auction at 8 p.m.

The sale has been catalogued and the authenticity of each work is guaranteed by Park West Galleries, Southfield.

Patron's subscription is \$100 per couple. General admission is \$10. For more information, call Ida Krandle, 851-4534.

• TOOLS EXHIBIT

A new exhibit called "Tools" will open at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Wednesday Nov. 25 and close Jan. 24. The focus is on the evolution of woodworking tools from the simple to the complex.

To accommodate visitors, the Ann Arbor museum will have special hours during the Thanksgiving holidays. It will be closed on Thanksgiving, but open the following times: Friday, Nov. 27, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 29, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is at 219 Huron.

• DICKENS FESTIVAL

Historic Holly will present its 14th annual Dickens Festival beginning with a hospitality weekend this weekend, followed by celebrations the following three weekends in December.

The event calls for authentically dressed Dickens characters strolling through the town and shops, including Scrooge, Tiny Tim and Marley's Ghost. Shopkeepers in full Victorian

costumes, strolling musicians, carolers, jugglers, food vendors hawking their wares of roasted chestnuts, baked potatoes, meat pies and wassail are others who will add to the special atmosphere.

Other characters will be the town crier, who will be announcing special events and passing out gift certificates; Father Christmas; and "Pudding" who will be putting little gifts in people's pockets.

Hours for the festival are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 634-3501 or 634-7711.

• CRAFT GALLERY

Craft Gallery will hold a special holiday show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 at Roma's of Garden City, 22550 Cherry Hill. Sixty exhibitors are expected to take part in the show. Lunches and refreshments will be available. Admission is \$1.50.

• CRYSTAL DISPLAY

An exhibit of limited-production and special-production crystal from Sweden's renowned Kosta Boda Glassworks will be presented Saturday, Dec. 5 in the Gift Place, 26263 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield. A Kosta Boda representative will be on hand all day to show a wide range of fine glass pieces representing the best in the art of Swedish glass-making.

• YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Auditions will be held at Madonna College, Livonia on Jan. 16-17 for the 1988 Young Artist Competition sponsored by Oakway Symphony. Competition includes all instrumental, piano and vocal students. To compete, instrumental and piano students must not have reached the age of 25 years before Feb. 28, 1988; with vocal students, they must not have reached the age of 30 before the same date.

To obtain rules of competition and application forms, write to Oakway Symphony, 18549 Levan Road, Livonia 48152 or call 471-7049. Application deadline is Dec. 31.

• IRISH DANCING

The premier event of Irish dancing, the Mid-West Championships, will take place this year in the Detroit area on the weekend of Nov. 27-29 at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency Hotel. Children and adults from all over the Midwest will take part in the competition. Winners will go to compete in Ireland for the All-Ireland title. The public is invited to come and watch.

Young violinist earns 'gifted' title

By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

Community orchestras serve many important purposes, one of which is to offer young musicians an opportunity to showcase their talents and gain valuable experience soloing.

The Scandinavian Symphony did just that Saturday evening in Southfield High School. They featured the extraordinarily gifted Warren violinist Catherine Cho, winner of this year's CKLW Quest for the Best competition.

Cho is nothing but amazing in the technical process she displayed in the Paganini Concerto No. 1 in D for Violin.

The 1817 composition is what we would expect from such a supreme egoist and virtuoso as Paganini. The piece offers little for the orchestra to do but dutifully following along. For the community orchestra and a young soloist, this has its advantages. Neither has to worry about tricky orchestral entrances in between flashy violin acrobatics.

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Paganini is reputed to have performed this concerto in the almost impossible key of E-flat instead of the easier D-major. Today, it is always performed in D-major as it is questionable whether Paganini actually did perform in E-flat or tuned his violin up a half step.

EASIER OR NOT in D-major, there was nothing simple about 17-year-old Cho's high harmonics, double stops in parallel thirds, and her staccato intertwined with a melodious legato line.

Her legato line was the surprising aspect of her playing. Even though she managed these sweeping scales and arpeggios, she could lapse into a very mellow legato sound even for a brief moment. Her slow second movement, simple in comparison to the allegro and the sparkling rond

movements, was penetrating even though it came to an abrupt ending. Cho has been concertmistress of the Interlochen All-State Chamber Ensemble and the Michigan Youth Symphony, which suggests that she could be another Ani Kavalian.

Conductor and music director of the Scandinavian Symphony Douglas Morrison takes a very deliberate and precise approach to his conducting. His orchestra, led by concertmaster Fred Marriot, son of the famous organist at the Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, seems to consist of young, very attentive musicians.

Morrison is attaining a definite and well-tempered sound from the orchestra, even if the purity of sound is not always present. One very noticeable element was the balance between the winds and the strings in the Beethoven Symphony No. 1, an unusual feature for most of our community orchestras.

The difficulty in Beethoven is to achieve the spontaneity and the accentuated expression without losing

the continuity and momentum of the melodic line. In the minuetto movement, the orchestra's intricate shading was apparent.

THE SSO USUALLY programs a Scandinavian work for each program, a feature that always makes the program more interesting. Saturday evening they performed the Grieg "Two Elegiac Melodies." While the work was heavily rehearsed, the strings were not lush enough to carry the intense melody, even though this critic must applaud the conductor for selecting them.

The high standards that are obviously beginning set for this group are readily apparent in the evenly performed program it is too bad community orchestras are relegated to surroundings where inadequate and unkempt facilities belie the cultural integrity they seek to achieve.

Mary Jane Doerr is an area free-lance writer who has been doing music reviews for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers for several years.

Vacation Planner

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NEWSPAPERS

Golden West Tour

Departs Tuesday December 1.
Returns Wednesday December 9
Tuesday December 8
Wednesday December 16
Tuesday January 5
Wednesday January 13

•Palm Springs
•Vegas
•Calico Ghost Town
•Los Angeles
•Hollywood
•Universal Studios

•Air Transportation on scheduled air lines with in-flight meals
•To your room baggage handling
•Hotel/Airport Transfers (in California)
•Hotel accommodations
•Sightseeing & special events
•Entrance fees
•Fully escorted

7 Nights/8 Days
Departs from Detroit's Metropolitan Airport

\$439

per person
complete
double occupancy



Mexico Fiesta Tour

8 Nights/9 Days
Departs Detroit's Metropolitan Airport

Departs Monday February 8
Returns Tuesday February 16
Monday March 7
Tuesday March 15

•Mexico City—welcome cocktail party, city sightseeing, Floating Gardens of Xochimilco, La Fiesta Brava Bullfight, Universal City, Ballet Folklorico
•Acapulco—Fiesta yacht cruise of bay, La Quebrada High Diver
•Taxco—sterling silver shopping
•Cuernavaca—fascinating sightseeing
•Toluca—famous centuries old Indian marketplace
•Ixtapalan de la Sal ancient Aztec health springs

•Air transportation round trip via scheduled jet airline including in-flight meal service
•Hotel accommodations based on twin/double bedrooms in fine resort hotels as shown or similar
•Sightseeing, special events by motorcoach, all entrance fees, Guide service, special events listed included
•To your room baggage handling
•Personal transfers airport to hotel round trip throughout
•Mexican born professional escorts will be with you throughout.

\$790
per person
complete
double occupancy

Hawaii

4 Island King Tour
Departs Tuesday December 9
Returns Wednesday December 23
Tuesday April 5
Wednesday April 20

•Waikiki—lele greeting, city tour of old and new Honolulu, Punchbowl Crater, Iolani Palace, International Market Place, Pearl Harbor Cruise
•Kona and Hilo—Black Sand Beach, Volcano National Park, Mauna Loa & Kilauea Volcanoes, Thurston's Lava Tube, Giant Fern Tree Forest, Famous Volcano House, Banyan Tree drive, Rainbow Falls
•Maui—mysterious Iao Valley excursion, old whaler's capital of Lahaina, fabulous Kaanapali resort area
•Kauai—Waialeale River boat cruise, Fern Grotto

•Air transportation, round trip via scheduled jet airline, in-flight meal service
•Hotel accommodations based on twin/double bedrooms in fine resort hotels
•Sightseeing and special events as listed, all entrance fees and transfers included
•To your room baggage handling, free baggage allowance is 44 pounds per person to be contained in a single suitcase. Extra suitcases may be taken but will be charged by the factor at \$5.00 each. A flight bag may be carried free of charge.
•Personal transfers, airport to hotel round trip
•Tips for baggage handling are included
•Gratuities to drivers and escorts are not included, but left to the discretion of the individual.

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Returns Wednesday November 25
Tuesday December 15
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Tuesday February 2
Wednesday February 10

•San Francisco
•Buellton/Solvang
•Los Angeles
•Universal Studios
•Hollywood

•Air transportation on scheduled airlines with in-flight meals
•To your room baggage handling
•Hotel/Airport transfers (in California)
•Hotel accommodations
•Sightseeing & special events
•Entrance fees
•Fully escorted

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☐ California Golden West Tour
☐ Hawaii Four Island King Tour

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