

Chamber Orchestra bids goodbye to this area

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

The New American Chamber Orchestra's concert last week ended with its swan song for Detroit. It is now actively looking for a new home.

Chamber groups, like people, tend to be taken for granted when they are among us. And like their human counterparts, such groups aren't perfect. Sometimes they are annoying, even exasperating. We tend to overlook the fact that these traits are part of a greater, precious, unique identity.

The New American Chamber Orchestra, under its enterprising director Misha Rachlevsky, was established in 1984 on a full-time basis. Before that, the group had performed

on a more limited schedule when Rachlevsky was a violinist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Rachlevsky gave up his secure, full-time position with the DSO to devote all of his energy to the chamber orchestra, something few musicians would dare to do. At first audience response was excellent, then the numbers started to dwindle and this, in turn, caused monetary grants and contributions to run dry.

Last Friday, however, Orchestra Hall was packed for the final concert. Many more than attended during the regular series showed up to pay their last respects, some possibly hoping for a last chance to revive the series.

HAYDN'S "FAREWELL" Sym-



phony was always the concluding work on the final program of each

season. This Symphony No. 45 has an unusual final movement in which the players depart, blowing out their candles.

This was Haydn's way of signaling Prince Esterházy that it was time to grant the musicians a long-deserved vacation. There was some criticism about its repeated use by the New American Chamber Orchestra. This, with at least one annual performance of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" and some other oft-repeated works, made many people feel the series was overly predictable.

Perhaps it was. But this Haydn work never had such awesome significance as it did Friday. Familiarity doesn't always breed contempt; too often it creates indifference. The virtuosic performer sounds much better to the audience with the polished performance that to the neighbors who hear the endless, agonizing practice and shaping of every phrase. So, too, a visiting chamber group is more likely to leave listeners more enthusiastic about its ability than a hometown group with its ups and downs.



Avigdor Zaromp

All this said, the atmosphere at this final program wasn't funereal. Tollemann's suite, "Don Quixote," which opened the program, is cheerful. Quixote's naive attack on the windmills had a contemporary parallel such as an apparently hopeless attempt to reverse the cultural trend of our community.

Haydn's Concerto for Violin in C Major had its own comic element in the final movement. Rachlevsky, playing the solo part, inadvertently dropped the music while turning the page. However, he picked up the pages one by one during the pauses without missing a note. This episode symbolized the cheerful, spontaneous spirit characteristic of the so-

rics, in spite of some of its predictability.

IN EARLIER YEARS when I would hear this group almost every week, I grew tired of the sound which wasn't always perfect. At this final concert, after being away for awhile, I was delighted to realize, how good the group sounded in spite of the high turnover of musicians.

Mozart's Symphony No. 29, for example, could compete with some of the best performances of it by other chamber groups. The "Farewell" Symphony, played with traditional candlelight (with some assistance from Detroit Edison) received a warm applause and standing ovation.

The New American Chamber Orchestra will continue to perform in Europe and other continents where it has had success in the past. It may yet become one of the world's best. In any event, if its departure from our area actually takes place, it will be a great loss.

Boston architect to speak at LIT

Sue Song-Hea Kim of Koetter, Kim and Associates will be the next guest speaker in the Lawrence Institute of Technology School of Architecture's Architecture series at 7:30 p.m. today.

She will present the firm's latest projects in LIT's architecture auditorium, 21000 W. 10 Mile in Southfield. The lecture is open to the public at no charge.

Kim, a partner in the Boston-based architectural practice, joined the firm in 1978. In just five years, her name was incorporated in the firm's title.

Koetter, Kim and Associates maintains a diverse practice, which includes commercial and residential work, institutional buildings and urban design.

In addition, the firm has explored the related areas of urban design. Current work includes the master planning for the historic center of Chat-

anooga, Tenn., and the design of several major buildings in that district.

The firm has accumulated four Progressive Architecture Design Awards, including one this year for the Millie Park District Urban Design Study for Chattanooga.

Kim, an architectural graduate of Cornell University, has a graduate degree in urban design from Harvard University.

Help Woody spread the word.

Vocare exhibit opens Monday

Waterford Friends of the Arts, in cooperation with Vocare Center, Pontiac School District, is presenting a festival of the arts, "Special People, Special Art," with an opening reception at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 18.

Included will be a performance by the Vocare dance students, Waterford Training Institute bell ringers and the exhibition itself. "Special People, Special Art" will showcase the work of the disabled population and how art offers them a vehicle to demonstrate their abilities.

The exhibit continues through May 5, 1415 Crescent Lake Road. For gallery hours, call Gwen Haezlett. For information on the Vocare arts program, call Alon Johnson, 333-7141.

Rolling Oaks West

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY!

"Contemporary style where quality is a tradition in Farmington Hills"

Rolling Oaks West is an exclusive neighborhood of 50 custom built homes. Prices from \$242,000

Daily 1-6 PM (Closed Thursday)
661-6886
Off Drake Rd. Between 13 & 14 Mile Roads

ONLY 2 LEFT!
A Celebration of Your Success.
Great Value on Upgraded Furnished Model and Spec Home

THE REWARDS OF SUCCESS AWAIT YOU AT THE MANOR HOMES AT ALDINGBROOKE

Luxurious 2 or 3 bedroom detached condominiums featuring 2,400 to 2,700 square foot of sumptuous living space, some with well-out levels, breathtaking views of magnificent rolling terrain -- with lush gardens and trees, a dramatic ravine and a sparkling pond. And a 24-hour manned gatehouse ensures your complete privacy.

Use the affluent lifestyle you've earned in the hills of West Bloomfield... and enjoy all that is coming to you.

From \$200,000

the MANOR HOMES of Aldingbrooke

661-1750

Manorhomes on Drake Road between Maple and Highland One block is open daily from noon to 6 p.m.

Brookdale West

BUILDER'S CLOSEOUT

YOU WILL NEVER SEE THIS PRICE AGAIN From \$199,000

We have a bonus for someone who needs a home immediately and would prefer a new one. We offer a beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath, semi-custom home which features full carpeting, tiled baths, custom wood finishings and beautiful kitchen including appliances. Come out over the weekend to see the last home now being completed.

642-8686 373-6980

Bensicke & Krue
Development Corporation

• Your hometown voice •

THE HARBOURS

LUXURY CONDOMINIUMS
NATURAL LAKESIDE COMMUNITY

- Ranch type units with private entrance and attached garages
- Walk-out basements
- All kitchen appliances
- Vaulted ceilings
- Main floor laundry

From \$99,900 to \$149,900

Open daily from 1 pm to 6 pm except Thursdays or by appointment. Outside brokers by invitation only.

Phone 683-9900

MODELS OPEN

ELEGANT SENIOR LIVING

\$995⁰⁰

In a beautiful secure country setting at Pontiac Trail and West Road, elegant apartments designed for seniors are now available. Our comfortable, relaxed atmosphere is enhanced by landscaped walking trails, pond with ducks, gazebo, courtyards, library, coffee shop, TV lounge, movie theatre, beauty shop and exercise room. Other available services include meals, housekeeping, laundry, recreational and social activities and transportation.

A 24-hour emergency call-in is part of the master plan at Senior House, which leases apartments on a monthly basis starting at \$995. There are no leases to sign.

Senior House
Retirement Residences
This is your house

We're Easy To Find
SENIOR HOUSE

Maple Rd. West of Haggerty to Pontiac Trail, Turn Left at 3rd Light-West Rd. (We're 500 Ft. On Right) or 1-95 Exit On Back Rd. North To West Rd. Turn Right. Approx. 1 1/2 Miles On Left.

45182 WEST ROAD
NOVI
669-5330

A World Apart In The Heart Of Bloomfield Hills

Only 3 luxurious executive homes remain in this private, secluded enclave of natural and architectural beauty.

More than a nature filled preserve, The Oaks is an exclusive community of 12 homes unmatched in quality and fitted to your personal preferences. Grounds maintenance and other services are yours as part of the private association of homeowners.

Priced from the upper Four Hundreds.

The Oaks

Please call 647-4800 for a private showing.
Broker Cooperation Invited