

Mahler's symphony fitted the occasion well

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

Mahler's symphonies are viewed by some as prophetic. Some see in Mahler's symphonies a premonition of World War II and the Holocaust, events which took place decades after the composer's death.

The trials and tribulations of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra this season are, of course, not the scope of those other gruesome events. But, on a different level, one can find even these, with their charged emotional impact, reflected in Mahler's music. Thus, the selection of Mahler's Seventh as the concluding work of this season may have been



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more appropriate than originally intended.

The experiences of the DSO this season ranged from a work dispute resulting in a 12-week walkout to the recent shakeup of leadership, including the resignations of president Oleg Lobanov and chairman Walter McCarthy, and the departure of mu-

sic director Gunther Herbig at the end of his present three-year contract.

MAHLER'S SEVENTH isn't his most pessimistic symphony — that designation is more appropriate for his Sixth. The Seventh, however, contains some of Mahler's most disso-

nantic passages. There is no musical Richter scale to measure the range of turbulence of a musical composition, but if such a device were available, Mahler's Seventh would most probably hit near the top.

The lowering scope of this work, its shattering of previous barriers, may be symbolic of Mahler's herbig's own stature. Until recently, Herbig was perceived by many as a competent conductor, but too sheltered behind the relative security of the standard repertoire.

Many criticized his rigid tempo and tight grip. Both of those are incompatible with the emotional turbulence of a Mahler symphony.

On this latest program, Herbig

demonstrated conclusively that his ability goes far beyond coordinating this formidable work, an aspect which in itself would have been impressive.

His performance reflected the combination of art and emotion that is necessary to produce a major impact. This, of course, would have been impossible without an outstanding orchestra. The fact that the DSO is such an orchestra makes its clouded future even more difficult to contemplate.

IN AN EVENT that seemed to have almost all the necessary musical ingredients, there was one important one missing — a sizeable audience. It is, indeed, difficult for

those with limited musical knowledge to bring themselves to listen to such work, with its non-stop performance of almost 90 minutes duration.

But it would be even more difficult for gifted artists to lower their standards to accommodate that silent majority. It is, therefore, more important than ever that those who appreciate the highest artistic standards view it as their personal mission to fill the hall, with themselves as well as their friends and associates.

The final movement of Mahler's Seventh is uplifting and triumphant, may it serve as a prophecy for the future.

exhibitions

- **DETROIT ARTISTS MARKET**
Thursday, May 26 — "Fiber Content." Includes works by 28 artists in the Main and Upper Galleries. Weaving by Mollie H. Fletcher, Michigan fiber artist and curator for the show will be featured in the Curator's Corner. Opening reception is 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 26. Continues through June 24. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1452 Randolph, Detroit.
- **BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART ASSOCIATION**
Saturday, May 26 — Spring exhibit by members of Palette and Brush Club continues through June 18. Opening reception is 2-5 p.m. Saturday, May 26. Ray Frost Fleming was the juror. Gallery hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.
- 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham.
- **DETROIT FOCUS GALLERY**
Wednesday, June 1 — Painting, drawing and sculpture by Michigan area artists Pamela DeLaura, Laura Reed Kinsley, Chuck Richards and Steven Zaito is on display through June 25. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 743 Beaubien, Detroit.
- **JOY EMERY GALLERY**
Thursday, June 2 — British Modernist Printmakers, Vortical and Grosvenor School Artists continues through July 15. Opening reception is 5-8 p.m. Thursday, June 2. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, until 8 p.m. Thursday, 151 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- **HELEN CUNIFF STUDIO GALLERY**
Sculpture by David Mandiburg of

- Auburn Hills and paintings and photographs by John Miller are on display through Thursday, June 1. Mandiburg studied at Wayne State University and the Artists Wood Carving Shop of Minneapolis and was assistant to Seymour Lipson at the Art Students League of New York City. His work is figurative. He had a show at Ariel Gallery of New York City last March. The gallery is at 59 S. Broadway, Lake Orion. Call 693-1910 for hours.
- **TOWN CENTER GALLERY**
Works by new artists are on display through June — Daniel Lencioni, large canvases, Michael Sirio, painting, Pete Peterson, limited edition pieces, John Eckley, stained and leaded glass pictures and Rundtadt Glass. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and other times by appointment, 322-8576, 3000 Town Center, Suite 45, Southfield.
- **PRINT GALLERY**
French Impressionist posters — Monet, Sisley, Pissarro, Renoir, Manet, Degas — are being shown in conjunction with a special lecture series by Michael Farrell at 7:30 p.m. Fridays beginning June 10. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-

- Saturday, until 9 p.m. Thursday, 29203 Northwestern, Southfield. For information, call 356-5454.
- **ARTSPACE**
Works by Warhol, Morley, Kramer, Held and McIntosh are on display in this resale gallery. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 574 N. Woodward, Birmingham.
- **SOMERSET MALL**
"Celebrate the Arts," which runs through May 29, includes the art of weaving, travel, music, photography, home decorating, design and illustration exhibitions and demonstrations, all sponsored by Hagopian World of Rugs Open during regular mall hours, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy.
- **COMMUNITY ARTS GALLERY, WSU**
42nd exhibition by members of Michigan Water Color Society continues through June 8. Among the local residents represented are Donald Mendelson and Linda Novotzky Mendelson of Southfield. The gallery is at 5451 Cass at Kirby, Detroit.

- **TROY ART GALLERY**
Recent paintings by Dee Knott of Flushing. Her subjects range from boats and still lifes to outstanding figures and faces. Regular hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 755 West Big Beaver, Troy.
- **GALLERIA OFFICENTRE**
Exhibition of birdhouses created by Michigan artists, architects and designers continues through June 11. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 300 Galleria Officentre Atrium. The entrance is on Lockdale between 12 Mile and Northwestern, Southfield.
- **CENTER FOR CREATIVE STUDIES**
62nd annual student exhibition continues through June 3. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 245 Kirby, Detroit.
- **NAWARA GALLERY**
"Michael Mahoney: Paintings," includes still lifes as well as figures. He works primarily in oil on canvas. He has degrees from Wayne State University, has taught there and is on the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association faculty, 1150 Welch Road, Walled Lake.

- **CANTOR/LEMBERG GALLERY**
"Permeable Obstruction" paintings 1987-1988 by Douglas Bulka are on display through June 11. Regular hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 538 N. Woodward, Birmingham.
- **SUSANNE HILBERRY GALLERY**
Painted sculpture by Joel Shapiro continues on display through June 22. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 555 S. Woodward, Birmingham.
- **PARK WEST GALLERY**
Etchings by Rembrandt, the great master, include self portraits, Old and New Testament subjects, landscapes and figures. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, until 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 29469 Northwestern, Southfield.

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