

Audience needed applause signals Story League meets

By Avigdor Zaromp
special writer

The American Artists audience was treated to an all-baroque program by the New Baroque Soloists last Sunday. This group consists of flutist Daniel Waltzman, oboist Marshall Heller, bassoonist William Scribner and harpsichordist Jocelyn Stewart. All are seasoned performers whose dedication to baroque music has impressed many audiences.

There are other groups dedicated to this style, some of them in our area. It is easy to find obscure works from the vast baroque repertoire. To turn such a program into an attractive event, however, is a challenge, especially when the music is by composers far less established than Bach and Handel.

The lively nature of the program was enhanced by a comedy of errors.

The first work on the program, Trio Sonata by the early baroque composer Giovanni Legrenzi (1628-1690) consists of four short movements without pause — the entire work sounds like one



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movement divided into smaller segments.

As the work ended, the audience, believing that only one movement had been played, waited patiently for the next movement without applauding until notified that the work had been completed.

THE NEXT item, a Trio Sonata by Quantz, is divided into three genuine movements, separated by pauses. There, however, the audience burst into applause after the first movement. When informed that there were two movements left, all was back on track again with the warm applause at the proper ending.

It seemed that everything had been straightened out as the program proceeded with a sonata for baroque flute and continuo by C.P.E. Bach. The opening andante movement went without a

hitch and the audience was awaiting the next movement, at least for a while.

But fate had another ironic twist in store, tempting flutist Waltzman to acknowledge the audience with a nod, triggering yet more unscheduled applause. Here the comedy of errors ended.

During the rest of the program the main entertainment was in the music itself. There were two more works by sons of J.S. Bach — a sonata by Wilhelm Friedmann and a quartet by Johann Christoph Bach. Other works on the program were by the German composer Johann Friedrich Fasch and by Couperin.

The applause dilemma does have a solution, based on a situation that existed in ancient Egypt during the first century.

There was a large, prosperous Jewish community in Alexandria in those days. When large numbers of people assembled for worship, those farthest from the center were unable to hear the prayers and blessings and yet they found a way to chant their "Amen" in unison.

The leader had an assistant who would wave a red scarf at the appropriate moment. Such an ancient idea might work rather well with old and unfamiliar music.

The Detroit Story League will hold a meeting from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at Christ Episcopal Church-Detroit, 250 East Jefferson, Detroit.

The storytellers will be: Linda Day, Livonia; Michael Deller, Dearborn; Jean Jambas, Farmington Hills; Mildred Stennis, Detroit; and Jean Gordon, Northville.

A workshop, "How Stories Can Teach Without Preaching," will be given by Calte Ailam of Redford. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and dessert will be served.

The Detroit Story League, founded in 1912, provides storytellers for schools, churches, libraries, clubs and other organizations upon request. Programs are for adults and children. To request a program, call Mary Beth Janisse, 540-4285.

Alvin Ailey dancers performing in Detroit

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will be at Detroit's Masonic Temple Theatre between Tuesday, Jan. 31, and Sunday, Feb. 5.

The troupe has toured the United States and six continents with its blend of Afro-Caribbean dance, modern dance, ballet and jazz.

Ailey, the founding director, recently was awarded the Kennedy Center Honor for his creativity in choreography and dance. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, and Saturday, Feb. 4, and at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 and Sunday, Feb. 5. For ticket information, call the box office, 832-2232.

Fredericks Gallery open

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Gallery in the Arbury Fine Arts Center, Saginaw Valley State University, will be open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons through January and February. Wednesday hours are 12:30-6 p.m. and Sunday 7 hours are 1-6 p.m.

The sculptures span the artistic career of the Birmingham-based internationally recognized sculptor. The permanent exhibition includes plaster molds, bronze castings and extensive documentation of his work, in process and completed.

To reach the campus, follow I-75 north to exit 160 and follow the signs to the campus.

Women's art exhibit planned

The Oakland Community College Womencenter and the Oakland County NOW are sponsoring the third annual juried women's art exhibit, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

The event is open to all women and recent works in all media, except jewelry, will be accepted. Prizes will be awarded and works will be for sale. The exhibition will be at the Smith Theatre lobby on the OCC Orchard Ridge campus at Farmington Hills. Lucille Nawara will be the juror.

The schedule is: Friday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. deliver art; Monday, Jan. 30, 7-9 p.m. exhibit opens; Friday, Feb. 3, 7-9 p.m. opening reception and 8 p.m. awards presentation; and Tuesday, Feb. 28, 4 p.m. exhibit closes.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, until 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Best of show prize is \$300. First prize, \$150, second prize, \$100 and third prize, \$75.

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