Well-balanced program attracts large audience

"One of the challanges conductors and music directors face is designing well-balanced programs of standard and non-standard repertoire with no significant compromise in content and quality.

Such a program was presented by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra last week. It consisted of Schumann's Symphony No. 3 ("Rhenish"), the first Concerto for Cello and Orches-tra by Shostakovich and a suite from

"The Miraculous Mandarin" oy usi-tok.

Lisaell guest conductor Yoel Levi proved himself capable of conduct-ing such repertoire with impressive results. Austrian born cellist Hein-rich Schiff, who performed the Lato concerto here a couple of seasons ago, showed he was equally adept with Shostakovich's 20th century masterniece. masterpiece.

Schumann's orchestral flaws are frequently noted by musicologists, sometimes with justification. But his "Rhenish" Symphony attracts more



Avigdor Zaromp

attention to the musical content, and this was the aspect which Levi em-phasized. The performance was characterized by clarity and sense of purpose throughout the five move-ments. Even some of the odd phrases

in the final movement found their natural balance and repose. If there is any doubt about Shosta-kovich's standing among the top of 20th century composers, his first cel-lo concerto should remove such

notice his stylistic humor rather than the substance. The latter is the dominant ingredient in this work. Schiff coped successfully with the technical difficulties — including the elaborate passages and tricky humonics in the second movement. He also interpreted with authority the diverse moods.

In the openion

In the opening movement he sounded intense and rough without being overly harsh. This contrasted with the refined singing in the second movement and the masterful ca-

denza, culminating with a inspired and energetic rendition of the final mement.

Bartok's suite, which Levi conducted from memory, was also performed with knowledge and authority. This must may have come more naturally to Derati, who conducted it here, possibly with greater passion. But this performance reflected a determination and persistance in the effort to reach the ultimate.

The sizeable audience for the Sat-

The sizeable audience for the Sat-urday performance at Ford Audito-rium was an encouraging sign.



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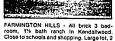
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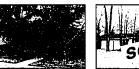
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