Local musicians are impressive

Programs featuring artists from our area provide us with some rewarding musical experiences. One such at Orchestra Hall featured the Lafgartet String Quartet with planist Flavio Varani.

Another event, Friday, featured the Detrolt Symphony Camber Orchestra with Detrolt prophony Orchestra violinist Geoffrey Applegate as soloist.

soloist. For the Lafayette String Quartet, presently in residence at Oakland University, this event closed a successful season of growth and increasing recognition here and abroad.

Varant, for many years on the faculty at Oakland University and a frequent performer here, was in excellent form on this occasion when he joined the Lafayette to perform the celebrated Plano Quintet in F minor by Brahms.

ano Quintet in F minor by Brahms.

THE OTHERI two works on the program — Mozart's Quartet No. 22 ("Dissonant") and the Quartet No. 8 by Shostakovich — are also items in the standard repertotre. But this aspect, while adding to the sense of security in treading on familiar territory, dion't detract from the sense of freshness and imaginative perception.

The Mozart quartet, titled "Dissonant" because of its unconventional modulations in its introduction, uses conventional Mozart harmonies in the rest of the work, but in this performance sounded full-bodied and exuding warmth.

The Shostakovich quartet, the only one of his 15 quartets performed with regularity, was inspired by the composer's visit to Bresden shortly after of the landscape.

This profound work, whose movements are tased on a four-note motive spelling the composer's name, was performed with full appreciation of the musical style as well as the programatic background.

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Varani, demonstrated insight as well as technique and had control over the wide dynamic range required in this work, from extremely turbulent to tender and subduod. The overall balance was impressive except in some instances in the final movement where the strings tended to be too scattered and harsh. The scherzo for Schumann's Piano Quintet was played as an encore.

VARANI, ON a sabbatical, will be performing in Europe for the next few months. He will return to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Meadow Brook.

A less conventional program was given by the Detroit Symphony Chamber Orchestra under assistant conductor Steven Stein. The center of the program featured the Concerto for Violin and Wild Orchestra by Kurt Weill (1900-1950), primaraly known for his "Threepenny Opera."

Applegate, principal second violinist of the DSO, appears frequently as solotst with various groups.

groups.

Here, again he demonstrated that his capabili-ties are those of a top rank musician. His spirited approach in navigating this challenging but ob-scure work left a lasting impression. While it is difficult to judge a performance of a work from

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first listening, it seemed that the winds were sometimes too loud and obscured the soloist. Another major work on the program was Haydra's Symphony No. 55, "The Schoolmaster," which received a convincing, well-balanced performance. The program opened with Elgar's Seronade for Strings in E milon's, about work with an opening movement that is very reminiscent of Mendelssoha's style. Ending the program was "Commedia for discosti Elghteenth-Century Orchestra" by Michigan composer William Bolcom. This fun piece pits an 18th century minuset against harsh contemporary dissonances, with amusing effects.

Overall, this program was less profound than those featuring the regular established war-hose, but it provided an cortaining distraction, giving the mind some opportunity to relax.

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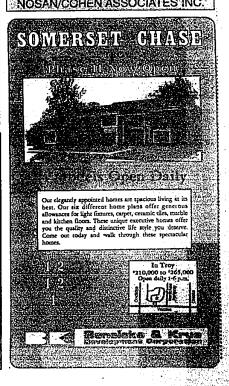


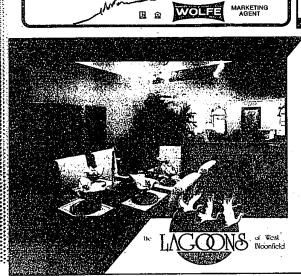
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