

Harpist to perform with symphony

Harpist Kerstin Allvin of Bloomfield Hills will be the soloist with the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony Orchestra in the final concert of the regular season at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 31 at Waterford Community Center.

She will perform a Spanish selection from John Adams' opera, "Nixon in China." The orchestra, now in its 36th year, is conducted by David Daniels of Oakland University and includes professional, student, and community musicians.

Allvin, a member of the Flint Institute of Music faculty, completed

her Master's in Music degree from the University of Michigan. She has performed with the Detroit, Flint, Saginaw and Warren symphony orchestras and did a concert tour of Japan and China with Laura Larson, flutist, in 1988 and returned in 1989. They will be touring France, Germany and Finland this year.

Tickets are available in advance or at the door. For information, call the symphony office, 384-6024. Waterford Community Center is at 1415 Crescent Lake Road, Waterford Township.

Christ Church hosting Bach Festival concert

The third concert of the Michigan Bach Festival will be at 8 p.m. Friday at Christ Church, Cranbrook, Cranbrook and Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

Each of the six festival concerts during March and April is presented at a different location. This is the only one in the northern suburbs.

It will feature the Baroque Chamber Ensemble of Christ Church Cranbrook directed by Charles Raimes. The selections include the Concerto Grosso in F Major, Op. 3 by Handel, a harpsichord solo by Robert Uitterback, Trio Sonata for Violin, Recorder and Continuo with Sarah Summer, violin and Michael Lynn, recorder, and the Concerto in A Minor for Flute Violin and Harpsichord by J.S. Bach with Lynn, baroque flute, Daniel Foster, violin and Raimes, harpsichord.

The final selection will be the Overture (Orchestral Suite) in C Major BWV 1066 by J.S. Bach. The concert will be performed on period instruments. For tickets, \$10, call Michigan Bach Festival office, 271-1939.

Performers share stage

A special concert by brother and sister artists, George Pehlivanian, violinist, and Elizabeth Pehlivanian, coloratura soprano, will be at 8 p.m. Friday at Bellan Art Center, 5980 Rochester Road, Troy.

They will be accompanied by Thomas Kuras, artistic director of Chamberworks, a regular series frequently presented at the Art Center. This will be the metropolitan debut for the Pehlivanians, who are now based in California. For information and reservations, call 546-6187.

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The bread was the best part of the Schubert sandwich

By Avigdor Zaromp
Special writer

The quality of Stradivarius instruments is taken for granted. Among the outstanding collections in this broad category is the set of two violins, viola and cello that belonged to Paganini. This collection has been on loan to the Cleveland String Quartet since 1982. The recent program of this celebrated chamber group demonstrated that it is, indeed, worthy of this cherished privilege.

This Quartet's performance last Sunday was the latest event of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit. The group appeared with its new first violinist, William Preucil, who served as the concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony for the past seven years. Other members of this group are second violinist Peter Salaff, violist James Dunham and cellist Paul Katz.

The program was aptly described by violist Dunham as a "Schubert sandwich." The reference was made when introducing the middle layer of this sandwich - the Quartet No. 4, op. 37 by Schoenberg.

In the case of an ordinary sandwich, the customer usually cares more for the middle portion than for the bread or the bun. In the musical analogue, however, the reverse seemed to be true. Everybody loved the Schubert works, consisting of the one movement Quartetset in C minor D. 703 and the Quartet Op. 29 No. 1 in A minor (No. 13 in the

Deutch catalogue).

Schoenberg's quartet, written in 1936, is still far from having mass appeal. The reason is its 12-tone style, of which Schoenberg was the founding father. Few could fault, however, the dedicated performance of the Cleveland Quartet, which presented this unpopular work in a most elegant form, emphasizing its more traditional structure rather than its atonal dissonances.

The presentation of this work may be analogous to an attempt of a pharmaceutical company to manufacture castor oil that looks like chocolate syrup and even has some of its flavor.

Unfortunately, even an educated patient who may realize the prescription's potential benefit and who would try to concentrate on its chocolate flavor, couldn't avoid noticing ultimately the objectionable taste of its basic ingredients. This describes my feelings when listening to this Schoenberg quartet. I tried to convince myself to like it - but without success. This is a reflection on my taste, however, and has no bearing on the intrinsic quality of this work.

But the Schubert ingredients were ample compensation for the majority who didn't find comfort in the interior of this musical sandwich. Schubert's saturated melodies provided a most effective antidote to Schoenberg's castor oil.

The Quartetset trembled with its mysterious emotional content. The other quartet emerged glowing with



Avigdor Zaromp

the beauty of its themes. Among the drawbacks was the occasional failure of first violinist Preucil to bring out the theme. Such was the case, for example, with the opening theme of the first movement, where Preucil's attempt to integrate his playing with his colleague's was too extreme.

The final movement of Beethoven's second Razumovski quartet, which was given as an encore, was the fastest rendition of this delightful piece that I have heard - but it had merit in its dazzling spirit.

There is little doubt that the Cleveland Quartet deserves to be highly regarded. This is true even if one doesn't happen to like every ingredient in its repertoire.

Program of 6 dances offered on OU campus

"Dimensions in Dance," a program of six modern dances by the Oakland University Dance Theatre, will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7, and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 8, in Varner Studio Theatre on the Oakland University campus, Rochester.

A highlight will be an untitled work by Lisa Nowak, founder of Harbinger Dance Company of Detroit. Her dance for seven women is produced with the support from the Women's Studies Committee and

Committee W of the American Association of University Professors at OU.

Other works on the program have been choreographed by Laurie Eisenbower, Carol Hasted, director of the university dance program, and Jo Frederickson.

The program is presented by the department of music, theater and dance. Tickets are \$7 and \$4 for students and seniors. For information, call the Center for the Arts box office, 370-3013.

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