

Chamber concerts jam already busy schedule

The wealth of chamber events last week was rare even for the busiest times of the regular season. Many of them took place on Sunday, causing listeners and critics to make hard choices.

My choices for the week were a recital by Hungarian pianist Georgy Sandor at the Lila Jones Theater in Royal Oak on Thursday, a program of Piano Trios by local artists at the Community Arts Auditorium at Wayne State on Sunday afternoon, and — later that day — the first program of the Chamber Music Society (CMS), series consisting of more titles involving some other instruments.

Sandor gave some of the standard repertoire items an undistinguished performance. Among them were

This delightful event would have been a bargain at the going rate for tickets. It was free — making it an even greater bargain.

Beethoven's Sonata Op. 111 and Chopin's Scherzo in B flat minor. There is no doubt, however, that Sandor is a gifted and capable pianist. Among his unusual selections was the interesting Interludio movement from Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra — well established in its orchestral form, but only recently brought to light in the piano version by Sandor,



Avigdor Zarnomp

who is a Bartok disciple. This piano score of the entire work, which Sandor performed recently at Carnegie Hall, was given to him by the composer's son.

Other high points in performance were reached in three Chopin mazurkas, in Debussy's "Ondine" and in three encores, especially the B minor Capriccio by Brahms and an étude by Scriabin.

Pianist Doris Richards, violinist

Darwyn Apple and cellist Richard Pippo, all currently on the Wayne State faculty, presided at the concert by Haydn, Saint Saens and Shostakovich.

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Excellent technique, fluency and agility were the rule on this pro-

gram. The Rhondo in Haydn's Trio in G Major was performed at lightning speed, prompting Mischa Kottler to remark gleefully that it was much too slow. The program concluded with the witty Trio Op. 87 in E Minor by Shostakovich. It uses a theme from the composer's Rhapsody on Hebrew Themes, which he also used elsewhere (String Quartet No. 8, for example). The piano used here was completely new. Its tone, on the thin side, proved to be extremely suitable for chamber performance.

Only three members of the Guarneri Quartet were present for the CMS event — violinist John Dalley, violist Michael Tree and cellist David Soyer. They were joined by clarinetist John Yeh and pianist Seymour Lipkin for part of the program — Mozart's Trio K. 498 for Clarinet, Viola and Piano; Beethoven's Trio Op.

No. 1 for Violin, Viola and Cello; and the Trio in A minor, Op. 118 for Piano, Clarinet and Cello by Brahms. Yeh is a member of the Chicago Symphony and Lipkin, also active as a conductor, has diverse duties in several festivals. He studied with Mischa Kottler in the 1940s. High professional musicianship and sophistication dominated on that program. Beethoven's string trio, a neglected work, came off as most substantial in this performance. The more serene aspects came across with the Brahms masterful clarinet trio. Only occasionally did the piano assert itself, acting as an equal partner the rest of the time.

Ordinarily, listening to six trios in one day would be too much of a good thing, but it didn't feel that way with these excellent performances.

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