

# This concert was much better than expected

It's been said many times that you can't judge a book by its cover. This principle may apply to other situations, however, that have nothing to do with books. One example is the Slovak Chamber Orchestra, the latest in the Chamber Music Society series, which appeared here Sunday, Nov. 11.

The Slovak Chamber Orchestra is affiliated with the Slovak Philharmonic of Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. It was established in 1966 and its leader, Bohdan Warchal, is an impressive violinist, in addition to his role as conductor. Since its inception, the group has concertized extensively all over the world.

When this group came on stage, getting ready to play in a standing position, I felt some negative vibes. The reason that some groups perform this way — went my thinking — is because that's the only way they can keep on their toes, at least physically if not artistically. That was my experience with several other groups. This supposedly clever observation was shattered, however, with the first few bars from Handel's Concerto Grosso No. 11 in A major from Op. 6.

While debates continue about the correct approach to music of the baroque era, the Slovak Chamber Orchestra has found an effective way



**Avigdor Zaromp**

to get this music across and make it appealing and attractive without artistic compromise. They aren't using so-called "period instruments," and they don't banish the vibrato for the sake of misconceived authenticity.

On the other hand, there is also no attempt at a romantic style en-

hancement or improvement. These musicians realize that the language of music was natural to the masters of the respective periods. It requires a natural grasp to perform it in a convincing manner. This application of the term natural shouldn't be confused with instinctive ignorance.

It is an approach that is enhanced by the process of formal learning and training, but isn't reduced to a blind imitation of a ritual.

This was one of the rare occasions in which I actually enjoyed a Vivaldi concerto without an aftertaste of stale, monotonous redundancy. The Concerto for Two Violins and Cello in G minor, Op. 3 No. 2 came through as a work with real, meaningful landscape. So did Respighi's Suite No. 3 of Ancient Airs and Dances, consisting of 17th century tunes arranged by this 20th century composer. I can't recall a more impressive rendition of the concluding Passacaglia of this suite.

The only short, contemporary piece, Musica Slovaca by Iija (b. 1932), was a pleasant, tonal work based on folk melodies.

Dvorak's Serenade in E Major, the longest and possibly the most popular work, concluded this fascinating program. Apparently, those who take the time and effort to learn and understand other styles and cultures may end up with a better understanding of their own heritage. This was the impression that came through with the Dvorak serenade — reflecting a sense of authenticity that really counts.

The program was followed by a string of cheerful encores.

## Violinist shows her potential in diverse program

By Avigdor Zaromp  
Special writer

Violinist Michelle Maraski is the latest in a rich crop of young, talented Michigan artists who have performed in the metro area recently. She was accompanied by pianist Brent McMunn, who has impressive credentials of his own.

This was the first of three events of the Michigan Artists Recital Series, held at Orchestra Hall on Sunday, Nov. 11.

This program took place just before the Chamber Music Society con-

cert and that may account for the poor attendance. On days like this the idea of showing up with a sleeping bag crosses my mind, but there was ample artistic stimulation to counteract the exhaustion caused by the busy weekend.

The program, featuring works by Poulenc, Harbinson, Beethoven, Bartok and Faure, reflected stylistic diversity that was challenging, even if some items weren't profound.

Beethoven's Sonata No. 3 in E Flat Major for violin and piano would naturally elicit high expectations, but it tended to be low in terms of

### review

delivery. While this sonata is held in lesser esteem than some of Beethoven's other sonatas for these instruments, it is nevertheless a substantial and lively work.

Even though the performance was technically correct, it was too anemic. Moreover, McMunn played his role as an accompanist rather than as an equal partner, possibly overcompensating for the tendency of many pianists to overwhelm the violinist.

The Sonata by Poulenc, which

opened the program, may have less serious substance but, on this occasion, it offered more spirit.

The Four Songs for unaccompanied violin by the American composer John Harbinson (b. 1938) were far above my expectations in terms of musical quality — not quite in the same class with Bach's Chaconne — but top drawer among contemporary works.

The other contemporary work on the program, "Oh Them Rats is Mean in My Kitchen," by Stephen

Hartke (b. 1952) evoked far less positive feelings. I found it mostly to be Mean Noises in Them Poor Ears with Clunkety Clunk Overtones. In this piece for two violins, Maraski was joined by Ronald Copes, whose ability can't be properly judged from this piece.

The aromatic sounds of the Sonata No. 1 in A major by Faure were probably the best on this program. Here, there was lively interaction between the performers, without any excessive showmanship. In several performances of this sonata I have

heard too much lavishness that tended to overwhelm the more refined quality of this work.

The balance between the early impressionistic influence and the older, heavier Romantic layers was good. In this performance, the music of Faure had its best effect, creating the image of a delicate fabric rather than a mishmash sack.

Maraski is a conscientious artist who produces a clean, precise tone. She is in a period of artistic growth. We would like the chance to hear her again.

## Registration opens at art association

Registration for the winter term at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association starts Monday, Dec. 3, for members and Monday, Dec. 10, for the general public.

The term will run Jan. 14 to March 23. Ninety-five classes for youths and adults will be offered in a variety of media, including jewelry, drawing, pastel, art history, painting and pottery.

Japanism, the influence of Japanese culture on Western art during the 19th and 20th centuries, will be

explored by Hope Palmer in the art history class.

During March, a seminar, "Experiencing Architecture," with local architects Michael Kirk, Rainy Hamilton, Daniel Redstone and Jerry Van Dine, will take place. Each session will include a slide lecture and an on-site visit with the architect to a current project. Joyce LeBan is the seminar coordinator.

The art association is at 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday. For information, call 644-0836.



**COMING SOON**

the all new  
**MITCH HOUSEY'S**  
28500 Schoolcraft  
Livonia

**425-5520**

Watch for our ad

**COUPON DINNER FOR TWO**  
Mon-Fri 5-10 PM  
CLOSED THANKSGIVING

**VEAL**  
PARMIGIANA \$14.95

**CHICKEN**  
PICCATA \$14.95

**TORANGE**  
ROUOH \$15.95

**HOMEMADE**  
LASAGNA \$11.95

CHOICE OF SOUP OR SALAD  
\*Must order 1/2 lb. or more  
Dinner 5-10 PM \$1.99

**Ante D'Amore**  
ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
The Italian Way  
Experience Freshly Made Dishes of Veal, Fresh Seafood  
Pasta Created by  
Chef Owner, LUCIANO, Great Wine, Main Jordan  
Polishing Fresh Grains and a Health-Smart Dish of the Day

**LIVE JAZZ**  
Every Wednesday  
7:30-10:30

**NEW YEAR'S**  
EVE  
Live  
Pianist

30200 Plymouth Rd. - Livonia 422-0770

**NOW SERVING SZECHUAN AND MANDARIN FOOD**

**梅MOY'S** JAPANESE AND CHINESE Restaurant

**OPEN MONDAYS DEC. 24th and DEC. 31st**  
**CLOSED TUESDAYS DEC. 25th and JAN. 1st**  
**ACCEPTING NEW YEAR'S EVE RESERVATIONS NOW!**

Chinese Lunch 11-3  
Chinese Dinner 3-9:30  
For Reservations 427-3170

Japanese Lunch 11-2  
Japanese Dinner 5-9:30  
11-5, Sat. 11-12  
CLOSED MONDAY  
16235 Middlebelt - Livonia

**Mama Mia**

**DINNER FOR 2**  
Choice of:  
Tenderloin Steak\*  
Braised Boston Scrod  
Braised Chicken Parmesan  
Homemade Manicotti

**\$10.95**

All above include: Soup, Tossed Salad, Bread and Butter, Fresh Fruit, Dessert, Coffee or Tea

**Reservations Available**  
24 Hours a Day  
LIVONIA REDFORD  
427-1000 537-0740

**JOIN US FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Offering Special Thanksgiving Menu  
1 p.m.-8 p.m.

Mon.-Thurs. Special  
**50¢ Glass of Wine or Beer**  
with any dinner entree

**BANQUET FACILITIES**  
and  
**CATERING SERVICE AVAILABLE**

**Leather Bottle Inn**  
20300 Farmington Road  
(Just S. of I-66)  
Livonia 427-2100

**Thanksgiving Day Buffet Dinner in The Mayflower Meeting House**

**MENU**  
Dinner Soup - A Mashed Potatoes, Juice  
Roast Turkey - Corn Bread Dressing  
Fresh Cranberry Sauce - Golden Salad  
Cranberry Sauce - Fresh Fruit  
Homemade Squash Bread - Nutmeg  
Bittersweet Candy - The's Original Potatoes

**DESSERT**  
Dinner for 12  
\$13.95 - Adults  
Children Eat Free  
\*Must order 1/2 lb. or more  
Dinner 5-10 PM \$1.99

**CALL FOR RESERVATIONS**  
(313) 453-1620

**MERCY CENTER**  
NEXT TO GREAT SUBURBS

**Christmas Arts & Crafts Show**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1990**  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Admission \$1.00**  
Includes Raffle Ticket  
For Door Prizes

Come Early 8 to 10 A.M.  
More Prizes Given Away

Bring In This Ad and Receive  
An Additional Raffle Ticket

Sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega

**(313) 531-3544**

Michigan Classic Ballet Company  
presents  
**The Nutcracker**  
featuring  
Mary Celeste Geiger  
Principal of the  
Royal Ballet of Flanders  
Jady Picasso  
Principal of the  
Ballet of New York  
JAMES HOHMEYER  
The Michigan Classic  
Symphony Orchestra

Two performances only  
call now for tickets  
**661-2430**

Performances: Sat. 12:1 at 7:00 p.m. and Sun. 12:2 at 4:00 p.m.  
Reserved seating - performance at Novi Forest Auditorium

**Ticket Order Form**

Adults \$14  
Child Senior \$11

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Performance date \_\_\_\_\_ \$14.00 Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$11.00 Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Michigan Classic Ballet 5520 Drake Road West Bloomfield MI 48322

**Thanksgiving**

**At Meriwether's 2-8 p.m.**

**TRADITIONAL TURKEY DINNER \$11.95**  
with All The Trimmings  
Children Under 12...\$5.95  
Other Entrees Available  
Reservations Suggested  
Chowder Cards Welcome

**Meriwether's**  
25485 Telegraph Road, Southfield  
**358-4950**

**Christmas in Plymouth...**

**Christmas Arts & Crafts Show at the Plymouth Cultural Center**  
**525 Farmer**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
**November 23, 24, 25**  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
**November 30, December 1, 2**  
Hours: Friday & Saturday 11-6, Sunday 12-5

**For more information call 455-6620**  
Show Sponsored by The City of Plymouth Dept. of Parks & Recreation

**FREE Admission**  
**Plenty of Free Parking**