

Rochester Symphony, chorus present glorious concert

BY THOMAS BLUE
SPECIAL WRITER

What better way to begin the Advent season than to hear the glorious sounds of the Rochester Symphony, under the direction of conductor James Hohmeyer, with the Rochester Community Chorus and Michigan Christian College A Cappella Chorus, both under the direction of Joe Bentley. The evening's guest soloists, for the Vivaldi Gloria, were Bonnie Brooks and Kathy Krenich.

The concert opened with Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria in D Major." The "Gloria" is probably Vivaldi's most well-known sacred work for orchestra, chorus and soloists.

The Gloria consists of 12 contrasting movements. It was very exciting to hear the orchestra and chorus perform a major work from the Baroque period.

The evening's performance of the Vivaldi work was highlighted by the RSO's transformation to a spirited Baroque orchestra with very keen intonation, clear, crisp articulations and very well played solos on oboe, piccolo, trumpet and continuo.

Another highlight of the "Gloria" was the presence of the Chorus of Michigan Christian College. The chorus commanded a richness in tone quality and a well-blended sound that was con-

sistent throughout the work. The soaring soprano voices of Brooks and Krenich were featured in several of the movements.

Their voices spoke wonderfully over the solid accompaniment of the orchestra. It was musically, very satisfying to hear such beautiful tone and clear diction. "Gloria In Excelsis Deo" for a performance that was truly outstanding. Much praise needs to be expressed to all who shared with us, the music of Vivaldi.

After intermission, the audience was favored with "The Many Moods of Christmas," a collection of carols arranged by Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett. The

audience was given a taste of the festive sounds of the season through a very spirited performance.

The holiday atmosphere was felt beginning with the opening guitar solo on "What Child Is This?" right through the rousing and climactic strains of "Angels We Have Heard On High."

Courtney's "A Musicological Journey Through the Twelve Days of Christmas." Here the audience was taken on a humorous, and yet very creative, music history lesson that spanned Gregorian Chant, Handel, Wagner, Tchaikovsky and Sousa.

A perennial musical favorite closed the festive Rochester Symphony concert, Handel's well-known "Hallelujah Chorus" from

Bravo to the evening's musi-

cians for the concert of seasonal delight. We, as the Rochester community, are so fortunate to have a wealth of fine musicians

Thomas Blue is vocal music director at West Middle School in Rochester Hills.

Pianist *from page 9B*

aspect to advocate Atamian's performance style.

But sloppy technique and erratic tempo should not be confused with artistic spontaneity. Atamian's art would benefit substantially if he would spend more time and effort on such 'no-

nartistic' aspects as reliable technique and reasonable, more disciplined tempo.

Much as one doesn't need to take a vow of abject poverty to counteract extreme greed, there is no need to substitute the cult of raw technique with unabashed

sloppiness. There should be a better way.

Avigdor Zaromp, born in Poland, educated in Israel and the United States, has a Ph.D. in math and has studied piano, music theory and history.

'Two Into One' opens Dec. 30

"Ray Cooney's riotous comedy "Two Into One," described as a "hand-cranked laughter machine," opens a five week engagement at the Birmingham Theatre, Dec. 30 through Jan. 31.

Theater goers may recall that Cooney's earlier comedy, "Run For Your Wife," proved to be one of the Birmingham audience's all-time comedy favorites.

In "Two Into One," picture a U.S. congressman, his wife and his mistress in the same Washington hotel — and worse yet, in adjoining rooms. With the congressman's prissy aide, a senior

congresswoman, the chambermaid, the hotel manager and waiters all scurrying about trying to stay out of each other's way, we have the making of a hilariously lunatic situation — more laughs than lust.

"Two Into One" will have a special holiday schedule including several matinees and a New Year's Eve performance.

Seniors age 60 and older may purchase tickets for 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30 for \$15.75 and for the remainder of the engagement 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays for \$17. These dis-

counts are not valid with any other discounts.

The Birmingham Theatre is at 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham. Tickets available at the theater box office, and all Ticketmaster outlets. For information, call 644-3533.

The show is directed by Ron Holgate, seen at the Birmingham Theatre as Don Quixote in last season's critically acclaimed "Man of La Mancha." Earlier in the season he starred in and directed the award-winning comedy "Lend Me a Tenor."

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
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