

Program transcends ethnic boundaries



AVIGDOR ZOROMP

The tradition of musical entertainment at places of worship dates at least from the time of King David. The music performed then is, of course, unavailable to present-day performers who have to settle for more recent works.

A program of mostly Jewish music was presented at the Sharey Zedek Synagogue in Southfield recently. There was no admission charge, but the event would have been a bargain even with an admission charge.

The three performing musicians have all lived in Israel and are currently living in this country. They consisted of pianist Fedora Horowitz, clarinetist Eli Eban, and cellist Yehuda Hanani.

Of these, Horowitz, who is a Southfield resident, is best known to local audiences as the director of the Lyric Chamber Ensemble.

Eban, who was a member of the Israel Philharmonic for many years, is currently on the faculty of the University of Indiana. Hanani has a busy schedule as a recitalist and soloist having

appeared with the Philadelphia, Chicago and Baltimore symphonies.

Quality music transcends national and ethnic boundaries — its appeal and message are international. This is the case even if the temporary focus is primarily directed toward a specific ethnic group.

The opening selection, for example, "Kol Nidre" by Max Bruch for piano and cello in this version, was among the better known "Jewish" selections on the program. Yet, while the topic is based on a prayer from the Yom Kippur service, the composer wasn't Jewish — to the surprise and astonishment of many who are told that for the first time.

Other Jewish oriented selections consisted of "Three Israeli Melodies" arranged by Joachim Stuckey, "Three Songs Without Words" by Paul Ben-Haim and "Suite Hebraique for Clarinet and Piano" by Sviatopolk Mikolajevitch.

Ben-Haim was regarded as a leading Israeli composer for many years until his death some 10 years ago. The title "Songs Without Words" brings to mind a collection of short piano pieces by Mendelssohn, which hasn't much in common with Ben-Haim's contemporary style. Irving Glick is

seldom heard of, but his "Suite Hebraique" does have some attractive movements.

So what music do these three serious musicians schedule for the second part? The "Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano," by Brahms. How does this fit into a program of Jewish music?

"Brahms was one of the few masters who wasn't anti-Semitic," said Horowitz. But even those who would consider this to be a lame excuse, could not deny the profound quality of this music which would make it fit for a mostly Jewish audience regardless of ethnic orientation. There is also the instrumental consideration. While there were some Jewish masters available — such as Mendelssohn — they didn't write a clarinet trio. Few chamber works are as moving and inspiring as this Brahms trio which was undeniably the best music on that program.

The music that Brahms wrote for the clarinet is underscored by its serenity and more intimate nature. These elements were present in that performance, with clarinet passages which were clear and

well phrased, but not overly flamboyant.

The cello radiated with warmth, while the piano, with its more intricate role, was nevertheless in balance with the other instruments. Brahms would have been undoubtedly proud to wear a yarmulka (skull cap) for this occasion.

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

Concerts

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has been soloist with orchestras conducted by Gunther Herbig and Sir Neville Martinne and other world-class conductors. He has been heard at numerous festivals in the United States, France and Germany.

At Oakland University, Varani, Trio Aventura, and Cornelsen will perform "Quartet for the End of Time" which Messiaen wrote for himself and three other prisoners at the German camp Stalag VIII A

Comfy Concert presents country music of England

Traditional country music of England, as sung by the Conkors of Ohio, will be featured at the Paint Creek Folklore Society Comfy Concert 7 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the Rochester Hills home of Phil and Althea Doolittle. Opening for the Conkors will be singer/songwriter Judy Piazza of Rochester.

Since seating is limited, call 376-2513 to reserve your seat. Tickets are \$8. The Doolittles will send a map and directions to the concert.

A Comfy Concert is a house concert held in someone's living room. It is an informal setting that brings a new degree of closeness between performer and audience.

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The work for violin, cello, clarinet and piano received its first performance in January 1941, before 5,000 prisoners from France, Belgium, Poland and elsewhere.

Messiaen declared later that he had never had such an attentive and understanding public.

■ Musicians Against AIDS will present its first benefit concert 4 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at St. Jude Church, 15679 E. Seven Mile

Road, Detroit. Performers include William Whitehead, director of music and organist at Kirk-in-the-Hills, Bloomfield Hills and Renaissance Voices from Oakland Community College.

Tickets are \$15; concert proceeds will go to the NAMES Project, an organization responsible for bringing 2,400 panels of the AIDS quilt to Detroit May 20-24. For information, call 527-0380 or 527-2037.

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