

## Mayer interview

continued from p 7

Wednesday. The Friday and Saturday concerts were one program and the Sunday concert was another program with only one piece carried over. We try to have four rehearsals, but for a symphony like the Mahler we had five."

If a guest soloist is playing with the orchestra, they have two rehearsals with the soloist, one a dress rehearsal in the Jubilee on the Friday morning of the concert, with the exception of some singers who prefer not to rehearse on the day of the concert. "Most artists who play with the symphony have performed the work they are presenting many times previously: Zara Nelsova has probably been playing that concerto (Dvorak Cello Concerto, Op. 104 in B Minor) for the last sixty years of her life. We try to have a mix and melange of works and we do like to present new works occasionally, however."

Mayer diplomatically limits his list of favorite Canadian composers on this occasion to Edmonton, and cites Violet Archer, Alfred Fisher and Malcolm Forsyth (all on staff in the U of A Department of Music) as local composers whose works he has long championed. His list of classical composers is too long to include.

He also proves to be open-minded and enthusiastic on the subject of the orchestra's recent (and upcoming) performances with rock bands and others outside of the usual sphere of "serious" music. "I personally don't do that work, but I'm very much in support of the orchestra reaching outside of what people perceive as the classical domain. Who knows, in a hundred years today's rock or the '50's rock may be considered as classic as Stravinsky, Bartok, or Mozart. I try to come to the rehearsals and concerts and I hope that in time we will do more of that. I also hope that some of the people who come to those concerts will dare to taste what is conceived as the real classics."

As for the symphony's classical repertoire, Mayer says that there is no conflict between periods but rather "an issue of balance." This balance is both artistic and financial. "The season is only so many weeks of the year, and there is a lot of magnificent repertoire to choose from, so we only get to play some things once every few years. There are a lot of debates and discussions; people from within the orchestra, the Board of Directors, the public and the media know that they are welcome to put forth their views. There is a programming committee that meets several times each year. The problem is which works to put in when you only have a limited amount of time each year. The challenge is to balance each concert, each series and each season so that one comes out with a menu that is appetizing, challenging to the orchestra, challenging and

"The hall is ... bound to attract more people..."

rewarding to the public, and one from which there is constant artistic growth and nourishment."

Every member of the orchestra has the opportunity to contribute ideas about the repertoire the orchestra plays. However, Mayer is the one who is ultimately responsible. He communicates with prospective visiting guest artists and has a large role in the final say: "At the end of the day, the program that goes in the brochure has my name printed on it. I have to be comfortable that it is being done right."

In addition to the orchestra's heavy concert schedule, they are in the midst of recording a new album of classical-era marches for the CBC. The repertoire for this project was a programming request by

# FM 88

## CJSR FM Cable 104.7

TW	LW	WO	ARTIST	ALBUM	LABEL/DIST/ORIGIN
1	1	3	Color Me Psycho	Pretend I'm Your Father	Raging Records/CC
2	5	5	James	Strip Mine	Sire/WEA
3	24	2	Harold Budd	The White Arcades	Opal/WEA
4	7	2	Hunters & Collectors	Fate	IRS/MCA
5	20	2	E.Q. Zak	Premonition of Reality	Zak Music/U.S.
6	26	2	Sam Phillips	The Indescribable Wow	Virgin/A&M
7	27	3	Kenny Neal	Big News From Baton Rouge	Alligator/WEA
8	4	2	Michael Doucet & Cajun Brew	Self Titled	Aural Tradition/Rounder/U.S.
9	3	6	Nits	In The Dutch Mountains	Epic/CBS
10	14	3	Men They Couldn't Hang	Waiting For Bonaparte	Magnet/WEA
11	10	3	Various Artists	Married To The Mob (OST)	Reprise/WEA
12	-	1	Joe Satriani	Not Of This Earth	Relativity/WEA
13	8	3	Eric B & Rakim	Follow The Leader	UNI/MCA
14	-	1	Rusty Reed & Southside Shuffle	Stairway To The Blues	Flapping Beak/Tape/CC
15	15	3	Hugo Largo	Drum	Opal/WEA
16	2	5	Colin James	Self Titled	Virgin/A&M/CC
17	6	3	Dwight Yoakam	Buenos Noches...	Repose/WEA
18	-	1	Joshua Breakstone	Evening Star	Contemporary/Fantasy/U.S.
19	-	1	Wagoneers	Stout & High	A&M
20	-	1	John Hiatt	Slow Turning	A&M
SINGLE/EP					
1	1	2	Morrissey	Suedehead(EP)	Sire/WEA
2	8	2	John Newlands	Rain(Tape EP)	Independent/CC
3	5	3	Raheem	Dance Floor(12")	Rapalot/A&M
4	6	2	Varoshi Fame	Self Titled(Tape EP)	Independent/CC
5	-	1	The Gathering	Self Titled(EP)	World/CC
6	4	3	Bastro	Rode Hard & Put Up Wet(EP)	Homestead/Dutch East India
7	2	4	Scruffy The Cat	Boom Boom Bingo(EP)	Relativity/WEA
8	-	6	H.M.S.Dub	Dis Dub Disarm(Tape EP)	Independent/CC
9	9	5	Talking Heads	Blind/Bill(EP)	Fly/Sire/WEA
10	3	3	Shriekback	Get Down Tonight(12")	Island/MCA

CC Canadian Content  
- New Entry/Re-Entry  
Compiled by Music Director Ian McGillis

the CBC. Mayer was "more than happy" to have the opportunity to work on such a program, which gives the ESO a chance to do more work outside of the standard range of symphonies and concertos.

Still a young man, Mayer has conducted many orchestras abroad as well as virtually all of the major orchestras in Canada. He hopes one day to have the opportunity to

conduct the Israel Philharmonic as a guest conductor, for sentimental reasons: "That was where I got my start as a symphonic professional musician, and I left that orchestra 20 years ago to embark on my studies in the United States. Many of the members of that orchestra encouraged me to take that path, so it would be nice to return one day as a guest conductor."

## ★ ENTERTAINMENT ★

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"The Best of R & B"

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22

THE YARD DOGS

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23

LUTHER TUCKER

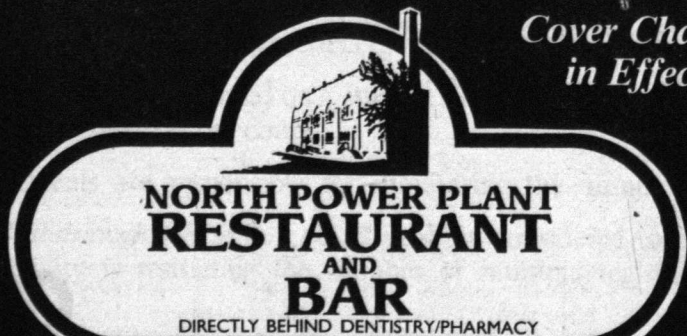
From Chicago - "The Master of the Blues Guitar"

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THE YARD DOGS

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Cover Charge  
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Bears vs. Dinosaurs

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All for only \$10.00

\* Tickets must be purchased in Room 259 SUB

Also

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