

FORUM I V PAGE



ESO experiment displays talent

By BRIAN CAMPBELL

The ESO concert two weeks ago must have been memorable, because I still remember it. In terms of symphony programming in Edmonton, it was an experiment; and it was an experiment which unfortunately failed from the economic standpoint as an excellent concert played to row after row of empty seats.

The concerts on Nov. 15-16 were designed to display the talent within the symphony, and so we were treated to four soloists and three works with that end in mind. And by the time the smallish crowd dispersed, there was little doubt in my mind, or anyone else's for that matter, that the talent was there.

But the concert was far from a triumphal march for the orchestra. We had to endure a staggering, annoying performance of Ravel's *Bolero* before we listened to any of the soloists. The *Bolero* is held together by a constant drumbeat throughout the work, and by the middle of the piece I was on the verge of strangling the drummer. His playing is monotonous and he lacks any sense of dynamics. Bang, bang-di-di-bang, bang (repeat 40,000 times). The drumming sabotaged the whole work. The only way to save the piece is to have the drummer play his phrases as phrases with an alternation between loud and soft drumming within the framework of the crescendo which shapes the work.

The bad drumming in the symphony has been something which has annoyed me all year. As much as I detest Arthur Fiedler's brand of "rock," it was uninspired drumming which stood out as its worst point. In short he beats stuff to death.

Carl Nielsen's *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra* with principal flutist Harlan Green arrived just in time to save the evening. Written in 1922, the concerto

pits the flute against the orchestra in a series of dark contrasts. The flute is light and humorous; the orchestra dark and sinister. The bassoons leer, and the trombones add their disillusioned commentary. The orchestra occasionally picks up a trace of lightness from the solo for just the briefest instant then rapidly sinks back into nasty meditation.

Harlan Green gave us a solid performance in a well-performed piece.

Next there was the *Duet Concertino for Clarinet, Bassoon and Strings* by Richard Strauss with Ernest Dalwood and Eddy Bayens, respectively, playing the solo instruments. The work dates from late in Strauss' career, 1948, and made the average age of this concert the lowest in living memory.

Ultimately this was another satisfying performance, although I had odd feelings of discontent about co-ordination in the orchestra and a sense that the work was not going anywhere. Fortunately these misgivings didn't last.

If anyone fell in love that Saturday night, they fell in love with Mary Ingham's playing of Berlioz's *Harold in Italy* written of solo viola and orchestra. It was an interpretation of tremendous warmth and sympathy, and it left me, for one, breathless. Not only that, the orchestra did its best work of the evening with Berlioz. There was some superb brass work at the end of the first movement and the second movement was inspired. Unfortunately that may have been the last time symphony-goers will see Mary Ingham's talents fully displayed, for I have heard she is leaving the symphony and Edmonton at the end of this year. It is a loss that will not go unnoticed.

After a break of nearly a month the ESO's main series will be back again on Dec. 6-7, and the mid-week series' second concert will bring us Tommy Banks on Dec. 10.

More about Ellen and Bill or, day-care centres never die

As in any selfish argument, Tom Peterson ignores many points in his hypothetical story of Ellen and Bill (Nov. 18). He claims Bill is supporting Ellen's education by contributing some of his students' union fees towards a day-care centre. What Tom doesn't realize is that Ellen, and I, and many others, are contributing to services run by the students' union which we never use, and which we feel are unnecessary. Does Bill want a yearbook? Does Bill use the recreation facilities in SUB? Surely Bill should be made to choose between recreation and education, just as he wants Ellen to be forced to choose between procreation and education!

Secondly, many people (perhaps even Ellen) contribute to students' assistance, through taxes, a great deal more than the amount of money Bill disputes. A day-care centre would only be a very small aspect of this aid. What Bill feels he loses in day-care centres he likely more than makes up in other assistance. But perhaps those who contribute to that assistance should adopt Bill's position and tell Bill (or any student wanting aid) to go to work until he/she has enough money to pay his/her own way!

Are all student-mothers wicked witches? The story fails to make any distinction between those who have tried and failed to prevent children (or those who had children before there was as much choice about the matter as there is now) and those who are "irresponsible." Are both groups to be equally condemned?

Secondly, the story fails to recognize that for some, the use of the day-care centre will be the only assistance they require. If these are compared to those students (male or female, married or single) who require hundreds of dollars in loans, then surely those who need only the day-care centre are more self-supporting and responsible than these latter.

Why pick on the day-care centre, and say that people who need that type of assistance are "irrational"? The group who needs the day-care centre can equally point

at those of you who require loans, those who want recreation facilities or yearbooks, and call you irrational. Perhaps the day-care centre furor arises not on rational grounds, but rather because many people in 20th century Alberta hold the irrational belief (found elsewhere many centuries ago) that "a woman's place is in the home." If the students' union can bring these people into the 20th century, it will have accomplished much.

Doug Mustard
grad studies

Strong suspicion of Panther "put-ups"

I have a strong suspicion that the two fellows who tried to "blitz" Mr. Fred Hampton on Wednesday evening were "put-ups" probably by the Black Panthers. If not by them then by some other interested party. It is notable that they were both Americans and that by their size, age and appearance one could obviously tell they were not university students. To me they looked like thugs or policemen, and not the typical timid Canadian policeman.

When the Asian student was attempting to challenge Mr. Hampton, his comments were drowned out and he was not allowed to get a word in edgewise. However, Mr. Hampton permitted these two

Americans to have their full say without any interruptions; their comments were very proletarian and ignorant compared to the more intelligent queries of the Asian student.

The juvenile exhibition of violence which resulted was immediately quelled by Mr. Hampton, an advocate of violence at other times and places.

The comments of the two men were extremely naive and ignorant—I simply cannot believe that anyone would have the nerve to say such things in a university audience. So there were the "pigs" Hampton was speaking of.

I would be interested in hearing other opinions about this idea. Am I all wet?

Bonnie Robertson
arts 3

Omissions from SCM paper on law and order

There have been several inadvertent omissions from the SCM position paper for the Nov. 21 Casserole which I felt should be pointed out.

In the second paragraph, one important sentence dealing briefly with alternatives was omitted. The paragraph should have included:

"To enter into the task of achieving a qualitatively new situation is a revolutionary endeavor.

"Though recent attempts to creatively relate the potential resources of the university to those problems of societal manipulation have brought repression (e.g., SFU), these incidents must be seen in the context of a movement of people in its early historical stage and the inevitable thrashing

of a dying structure which is threatened."

"One of the techniques of the old system for maintaining its present position is to initiate new laws and regulations . . ."

The SCM neglected to include another important quotation from the report of the University Solicitations (Oct., 1969) to the Law and Order Committee:

"We caution your committee to be most careful not to trade the justice of Deans' Council for the facade of justice of some other tribunal."

These points should further clarify and substantiate the SCM position paper.

Student Christian Movement
Richard Price



With eyes like mine, who needs to hear?

Egads! Gardening with Gateway



This is in response to the person wanting a column on gardening to make *The Gateway* a complete paper. The purpose of this column will be to bring readers into contact with various types of plants and why they are grown. Because of the present outside weather conditions, only house plants will be considered at present.

The modern home with its modern conveniences brings problems to the modern plant grower. This and following articles will give characteristics of the home in regard to plant growing.

Temperature affects the plant's health very much. The maximum temperature of the modern home is about 70 degrees F. and central heating ensures that this temperature exists in the whole house

or apartment. But many of the old popular flowering house plants need a maximum night temperature of 65 degrees or lower. If the temperature is above this the night respiration is too rapid and uses more energy than can be allowed to maintain a healthy plant.

In homes without central heating, this is or was solved by placing plants in cold areas near windows and in corners. In the modern home this can be solved by growing foliage plants instead of flowering plants. Foliage plants, grown for their decorative leaves, seem to withstand this higher temperature.

But this is connected with light intensity, which will be discussed in the next article.

Gerald J. Sach
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