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Arts & Culture

THE GAZETTE

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Quand ? Les 17 et 18 février 2000 Départ de l'Hôtel Lord Nelson

le 17 février à 14h00 Arrivée à l'Université Sainte-Anne à 17h00

Sliding symphonics

BY TRISTAN STEWART-ROBERTSON

Last Tuesday's Symphony Nova Scotia performance might have revealed signs of wear and tear on the group's musicians.

SNS has been testing candidates for its Musical Directorship position since September 1999 and combined with the loss of Conductor Laureate Georg Tintner, the symphony has been led by ten different candidates between September and January.

Remembering my more musically-inclined days, a group needs a sense of consistent leadership to keep musical egos to a bare minimum and make everyone work together as a cohesive whole. SNS's performance sounded like it lacked leadership on Tuesday.

Now it could be that I'm just wrong — nobody else I talked to seemed to noticed. Maybe it was the weather, or the proverbial flu, or just that occasional bad-day we all have. But something just seemed off.

As for the music, you can't beat a double-bill of Beethoven, especially his *Leonore Overture No.* 3 and the ever-famous *Symphony No.* 5. Wedged between classic masterpieces, was the world-premier of the new work by composer-in-residence, Alasdair MacLean.

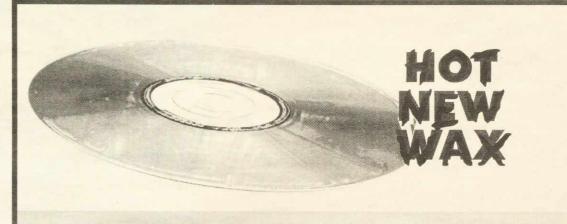
Well, what can I say — it was Aaron Copland-esque. For those of

you who have no idea what I'm talking about, think stage musical or film score: simple, dramatic yet somehow predictable.

My companion for the evening said it sounded Walt Disneyish. Agreed. I think it stuck out simply because it was between double Beethoven. Nothing, or not much, is going to sound very exceptional next to Beethoven.

It was a good performance, but it is hard to compliment Beethoven and SNS needs a fulltime leader.

FYI: The student package of 4 shows for \$44 is still available, as are day-of tickets for 50% off.



Cuba — Leap of Faith (4AD)

While quite as 'new' as the others in HNW, Cuba is a record that shouldn't slip through the cracks. I read somewhere that Cuba's influences are My Bloody Valentine, Spaceman 3, Public Enemy and Miles Davis – so whose aren't? More often than not, what reesults is in the same vein as Tricky. The breaks are healthy without being crashy, and it flows together with one observation — get rid of the fuckin' tichno girl vocals. Although I don't think I would buy this record, I'm glad I have it. — Jon

Sunny Day Real Estate – Live (Sub Pop)

For us SDRE backers who thought that they were but a fond memory, or a Dave Grohl side project, our grieving was for not – a '98 release, a live album and soon, a full-length. o get a feel of this record, the best way to describe it is to say: this album was not authorized by the band. Maybe that tells us more about what could have been, rather than what is. Hitting on "Pillars", "in Circles" and "Rodeo Jones" will keep any SDRE kid happy in the days between releases. – Jon

Snapcase - Designs For Automotion (Victory Records)

Sometimes I wonder why everyone in the world doesn't want to jive when they listen to this band. Constantly head nodding and smiling for a solid 30 minutes as I drove along listening to this new CD. Krishna Straight-Edge vegans, who mass produce "chugga-chugga" metal / hardcore, with wicked time changes, bad ass harmonics – like if your dad; really, really pissed off, grabs a motivational speaker, anybody from Quicksand, Refused and Sick Of It All, then picked up some mad distortion, a few leftist morals and two sledgehammers and just started beating you upside the ears, (you'd be angry too if you were from Buffalo). Picks: "Bleeding Orange", "Are You Tuned In" and "Break The Static". – Aaron



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Qui est invité,e ? Les étudiant.e.s bilingues qui s'intéressent à devenir enseignant.e en français. Toutes les disciplines sont admissibles. Banquet et soirée Chambre en résidence

le 18 février

- Rencontre avec le directeur, les professeur.e.s et les étudiant.e.s du département des Sciences de l'éducation
- Repas du midi
- Retour à Halifax vers 14h00

Pour vous inscrire, téléphonez sans frais au 1-888-338-8337 avant le 11 février 2000

Grade - Under The Radar

(Victory Records)

This release is pretty amazing. If someone who hated hardcore/sc reaming vocals was ever to like hardcore/screaming vocals, it would be this band. No one else is doing what they're doing. Who is this magical band? This new CD is like if a band formed with 1/2 cup from Grade, (is this self defeating?), 1/8 cup from Braid, 1/8 cup from The Promise Ring and 1/4 cup from Van Halen, then get lost in the jungle and end up in a steel cage match with a jungle cat, [ex. Jaguar, Panther, (preferably black]]. Some occasionally weak lyrics are forgotten in sing-a-long choruses and great musicianship. Fatty's Picks - "The Inefficiency Of Emotion", "A Year In The Past, Forever In The Future" – Aaron