

Turntable Druggs

by Andrew Gillis

Symphony No. 5 Mahler / Haitink / Philips

The theme music for the midnight to 6 a.m. shift on Radio 16 in Brookline, Massachusetts is, oddly enough, **Gustav Mahler's** fifth symphony, as recorded by Bernhard Haitink and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw.

Disc jockey for the all-night spot at "soulful 16" (wonderful WUAR) is the "fantastically soulful" **Bobby G.** To find Bobby, pick some real bad weather, late at night, and spin your radio dial clockwise all the way. Then you will be dead on Brookline's Big 16. But for no good reason, Bobby will never play the theme music for his show. In fact, he will never play any soul music written before Parliament-Funkadelic's "Chocolate City" (1975), let alone Haitink's interpretation of the fifth, which Mahler wrote before his traumatic debut as conductor at the Vienna State Opera (1907)—a position which made Mahler servant of Wagner's widow Cosima, and thus an unhappy man.

Traumatic is the word. The bitterness which met most of Mahler's best work was often expressed not only in the leading periodicals, but symbolically. Audiences in Munich, to which the Italian director Visconti alluded in his film of Mahler's end, **Death In Venice**, generally threw symbols of their disgust onto the stage near Mahler. Among them: tomatoes, shoes and boots. Often the audiences' aim was faulty, and these symbols would actually hit Mahler by accident.

Mahler's fifth is perhaps best remembered by film-goers as the tremendous wistful, atmospheric music which accompanies Mahler into Venice in the famous vaparetto scene, which opens Visconti's **Death In Venice**. What a marvel from this director who until **The Damned** had really made few marks outside the Italian ballet!

Mahler's fifth, simply put, stands as a unique achievement in the post-Freudian expression of symphonic angst by the Bavarian and Austrian neo-Romanticists. No

such achievement has been made by American soul bands since 1958: not the **Tavares** brothers, **Brass Construction**, nor even the **Undisputed Truth**. If you are willing to waste precious time with these shallow demigogues, Bobby G., so be it—but consider the theme music of your program, sir—consider your roots.

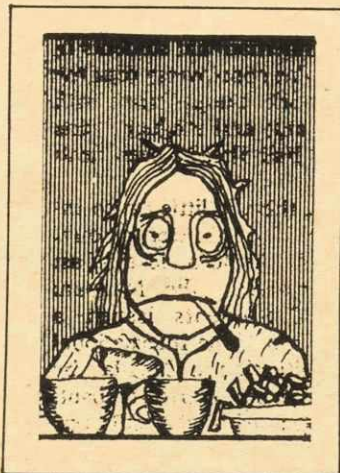
A Reader Writes

Dear Turntable Druggist:

Your attack on disco (Feb. 2) was unwarranted. If the dance floor at the disco you attended was so crowded "there wasn't enough room to fart", how can you complain about the quality of the music to which the people were dancing? That music must surely have been doing the job. Surely, if the dancers thought the disco Beatles was bad music, or if they found the Star Wars theme repetitive and predictable, and so lengthy that boredom set in, or if they thought "Don't Leave Me This Way" by **Thelma Houston** was overplayed and ten months too old—surely if all this were as you say it was that Saturday night, the people dancing would have *spoken out* against what they were hearing, and asked for some better music?

Do you really estimate the integrity of Dalhousie students so lowly? Can everyone who whoops it up during the 1,493rd playing of "Car Wash" be called an idiot?

Signed,
Francis Fox



CRYPTOQUOTE

Here's how to do it:

OXRUT OILZY
is
HENRY HICKS

One letter simply stands for another. In the sample O is used for the two Hs, X for the E, Z for the K, etc.

This week:

D NDNIZ SDM OI DV OBDVIQ DV BU YBVXIV
VT KTEP DV BU XDV KDBQ UXI WTCEQDUBTE
YBUX ODKDEJIQ WDBZ DEQ DJJCZDUI ZINTZUBEP.
—QIZIA SDEE, CEBSIZVBUM EIYV

answer to last week:

It'll be a great day when our day care centres have all the money they need and the Armed forces have to hold a bake sale to buy a plane.
—Every Woman's Almanac

OXFAM Benefit

Dr. Strangelove with Peter Sellers

Wednesday March 1, 8 p.m.

McInnes Room Dal SUB
admission only 99¢

CKDU for you

CKDU is presenting a program directed at Dalhousie students who are here from other countries. The International Students Association Program Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 6 p.m. offers a great variety of international music. This is a very interesting as well as an entertaining way to find out what the music is like in other countries, and for some—a memory of home. Another unique feature of CKDU is the Cape Breton Special February 28—three hours of follies of all those Capers we're so familiar with.

If you were tuned in Tuesday around noon you heard the great sounds of Klaatu, the Beatles, Quicksilver Messenger Service—and were you not impressed? John

Motherwell Tuesdays at noon for a strictly FM approach to good music. Tuesday night we have another of CKDU's renowned FM programs. The latest, from the Sex Pistols to the Rolling Stones (which is really the same thing anyway) with Lewis Humphreys. Getting into jazz is made entertaining and interesting during the jazz show hosted by Pat Gaul Friday at 12 p.m.

And this Saturday there will be a live broadcast from the Dal arena with the Tigers taking on the St. Francis Xavier X-Men.

CKDU, the only radio station anywhere broadcasting solely for the students of Dalhousie, on 610 AM.

Pepe's . . . intimate, elegant and fully licensed. The dining room offers the best in seafoods, prime rib roasts, steaks, varied salads, a selection of dairy dishes (homemade yogurt). A bakery on location (breads, pies, flans, etc.) and the best blueberry grunt you have ever tasted.

You can enjoy a delightful lunch, a light snack, a full course dinner or a late craving.



LOWER LEVEL CABBAGE TOWN

Jazz . . . It doesn't need any words. It speaks for itself. All you need to be told about Jazz is where to find it. Cabbagetown . . . A Jazz Cafe . . . is on the lower level of Pepe's Cafe and Grill . . . and that's located at 5680 Spring Garden Road.

Just a few words about Cabbagetown: It's got an easy atmosphere. Casual. Natural . . . You know the music belongs there. The staff is friendly and courteous.

• Cabbagetown's reason for being is good Jazz . . . Jam sessions every Saturday from 1-5. No cover charge.

TANSLEY ZEMEL QUINTET