

the daily collegian arts

Aeolian performance falls short

By SAM LEVY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

It was a daring move on the part of the Aeolian Chamber Players to perform two such very modern works as George Crumb's "Dream Sequence" and Gunther Schuller's "Sonata Serenata" as part of their Artists Series concert Friday night in Schwab Auditorium.

It was equally daring, but not that uncommon, for the group to then switch gears and couple the two contemporary works with such late 19th century Romanticism as Brahms' Clarinet, Cello, Piano Trio in a minor, Op. 114.

Was it all a total success? It was a valiant attempt but the group could not come out of pulling off such a coup unscathed.

One could have few reservations about the performances of the contemporary pieces.

The Crumb work is short, barely 20 minutes long, and, within its single-movement structure, a variety of short and long themes for piano and strings are tied together by the sustained sound of an offstage glass harmonium. The piano is not only played in the traditional fashion but often the pianist is required to run his fingers up and down the strings to achieve a shimmered effect. A variety of percussion instruments is also required.

The Schuller work, although similarly avant-garde, is in the more traditional sonata form — two faster movements framing two slower movements. The first movement is brisk and, as in the Crumb work, the strings play phrases that come in short spurts. The second movement, as indicated by its title "Elegia (In memoriam — Joe Venuti)," is less aggravated, often melancholy in nature. The third movement, though a slow movement, is written in jazz style, and the work is concluded with a vivacious rondo.

One cannot offer any basis of comparison for the performances of these works, although it must be said there was a great sense of unity exhibited by the ensemble.

Such a feeling of identity with the music was, unfortunately, not so obvious in the Brahms work. The playing seemed all correct, efficient and meticulous but, in the final analysis, little more than that. The whole approach to the work was too analytical, with little of the warmth that characterizes this work actually coming out.

Production is the toughest end to get into," he added, and yet many young screenwriters are given the chance to direct their own films. A prospective director's opportunities are greater if he or she gains success as a screenwriter.

Bemoaning the state of the contemporary film industry, Epstein said, "The new phrase is, 'Where is the hook — what will grab the audience?'"

He reacts against the influx of horror and action films that leave little room for what he calls "the little picture."

Producers won't take chances on films dealing with mature people and mature themes, he said, and in fact, "television is attacking better themes than movies." A few years back, for example, Epstein tried to buy the rights to "Friendly Fire," which he unfortunately couldn't finance. It was eventually

Julius Epstein: Penn State to Hollywood

By MARY JO SANTILLI
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

"Remember Paris," "Here's looking at you, kid," and "Play It Again, Sam" (though the line is really "Play It Sam"), are probably the most famous and clichéd film lines of all time.

It's probably a little known fact that these words from the film classic "Casablanca" were created by twin brothers Julius and Philip Epstein, now 70 years old, is still involved with a screenwriting career that has spanned more than 40 years.

Speaking of film classes last Thursday about his feelings on contemporary film and how to break into filmmaking, Epstein said, "The only field which a newcomer really has a chance to break into with comparative ease is screenwriting. It was eventually

bought by television and made into an Emmy-winning movie.

Asked about his writing method, Epstein quipped, "I'm one of the latest people in the world." Confessing he spends only two hours a day in actual writing time, Epstein said screenwriters in the old days hired by the studios were expected to put in eight-hour work days, and this made for problems.

But the success of such films as "Casablanca" allowed the Epstein brothers to do pretty much as they pleased.

About "Casablanca" Epstein said, "It was a happy accident... the right chemistry and cast were responsible for its success."

Its screenplay, which he describes as being "slapped together," was still in the process of being written halfway

through production, and it's not one of his proudest achievements.

Some of Epstein's recent credits include "Pete 'n' Tillie," which starred Carol Burnett and Walter Matthau, and "House Calls," also with Matthau and co-starring Glenda Jackson.

Right now, Epstein is trying to finance a "little picture" of his own. He has turned to the British film industry after an American studio suggested he change the lead character (who is Dylan Thomas) from British to an American.



Siskind
Artistic photographer Aaron Siskind talks to guests at a reception held in his honor last night. Siskind will speak about his work and his life at 2 p.m. today in Zoller Gallery. His exhibit will be on display through Nov. 4.

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New 'Rigoletto' cheaper by the dozen?

By SAM LEVY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Verdi's Rigoletto, Angel SZCX-3872 (three discs). The big question to be asked here is: Why another recording of Rigoletto?

For those who are keeping score, here is how the Rigoletto recording line stands to date:

Eleven recordings of the opera now exist in the domestic catalogue, excluding the upcoming Giulini version on Deutsche Grammophon. Another five or six are available as imports or cut-outs. Two or three others have gone into oblivion and may be hanging around some out-of-print shops.

Why was such a pressing need seen for another recording? Apparently, a major factor in the issue of this recording is the creation of another vehicle to star Beverly Sills. Sherrill Milnes is singing the title role at the Metropolitan Opera this season and that, too, could be a factor.

The present performance is a good, often pleasing, run-through of the uncut score but, taken as a whole, it does not surpass the finer recordings of the opera in the catalogue.

This is Milnes' second recording of the title role, having recorded it before in the 1973 Sutherland-Pavarotti-Bonynge recording for London. That performance was an efficient,

rather rough vocal reading of the role. This performance does not score any interpretive points over it.

Milnes either gives off full-blown baritone sound or when trying to convey sorrow or grief, indulges in the foggy, breathy, mezza-voice that has plagued so much of his work. The finer, more subtle shadings of character, however, evade him. Just listen to Tito Gobbi's phrasing in "Cortigiani in the Fog" rather than the "Piangi fanciulla" duet with Maria Callas to hear all the subtle shadings come to life.

This is the first go-round for Beverly Sills in the role of Rigoletto's daughter Gilda and, although the cover shows her rather late in life for the 16-year-old she is supposed to portray. Her voice, fortunately, holds up better than one would have feared in music that requires a good legato line. Her "Caro nome," which one would think would be a near-disaster, comes off rather well.

Interpretively, Sills does a fairly credible job — not the chirping canary that the role can be reduced to but not quite reaching the heights achieved by Callas.

It's good to have a recording of the opera with the merits this set has but for sheer interpretive insight, the 1956 Callas-Di Stefano-Gobbi-Serafin recording (Angel DL-3537) is the one to hear.

MONDAY EVENING

6:00 (1) WEATHERWORLD
(2) LOVE LUCY
(3) CBS NEWS
(4) BOWLING FOR DOLLARS
(5) CBS NEWS
(6) ELECTRIC COMPANY
(7) CAROL DUNN AND FRIENDS Guest: Ann Ayres
(8) NBC NEWS
(9) 10:30 NEWS
(10) CBS NEWS
(11) MACHIELLEHNER REPORT
(12) CBS NEWS
(13) 11:30 NEWS
(14) HAPPY DAYS AGAIN
(15) CBS NEWS
(16) MATCH GAME
(17) NEWSWIDE NEWS
(18) CBS NEWS
(19) MAUDE

6:30 (1) PENN STATE FOOTBALL
HIGHLIGHTS
(2) THE WHITE SHADOW Ken Reese has a chance to return to the pro ranks with the Portland Trailblazers if he can prove he's old knee injury has cleared up. (60 mins.)
(3) MOVIE "COMEDY" "Black Hearts and Coronets" 1936 Alec Guinness, Valerie Hobson. An entertaining "black comedy" as family decides to dispose of eight relatives. (1 hr.)
(4) MERRY GRIFFIN
(5) MONDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES The Flame Is Love 1976 Steve, Linda Paul, Timothy Dalton. An American takes on the way to England to be married, steps in Paris and meets two men who change the course of her life. (2 hrs.)
(6) MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL Minnesota Vikings vs New York Jets
(7) MOVIE "COMEDY" "Magnificent Ambersons" 1928 Joseph Cotten, Anne Baxter. Family is unwilling to change with the times; mother and son conflict over love. (2 hrs.)
(8) ABC CAPTIONED NEWS
(9) KOLAR
(10) THE TONIGHT SHOW Guest host: Bob Newhart. Guests: Dick Shawn, Susan Sullivan.
(11) BENTLEY HILL SHOW
(12) CBS LATE MOVIE "HARRY C" Death Certificate A mad dies and his motherly aunt turns into a brain with organized crime's what? (1 hr.)
(13) (Repeat) "MAGILLAN AND WIFE" Game Of Survival "Game Rock Hudson, George Maharis. (1 hr.)
(14) CBS NEWS
(15) MOVIE "DORAMA" "Far Horizon" 1955 Charlton Heston, Fred MacMurray. Two men sail out to sea to find a new world. (2 hrs.)
(16) MEDICAL CENTER
(17) CBS NEWS
(18) NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL
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(2) ALL IN THE FAMILY
(3) FAMILY FEUD
(4) TIC TAC DOUGH
(5) DATING GAME
(6) NEWS
(7) JOHNSON'S WORLD
(8) NEWSBRIEF
(9) LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER "John Sutherland and Martin Roman. Two of the foremost female voices in classical music, mezzo-soprano and soprano and Martin Roman, mezzo-soprano — are featured in this historic joint concert from Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. (2 hrs.)
(10) LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE The circus comes to town and Mr. Olson does his best to hide the fact that the circus fat lady is his long-lost sister. (60 mins.)
(11) 240-ROBERT This career seems to be over when he loses his right after a high-speed crash, and two doped-up kids in a car turn a gas station into a deadly inferno.
(12) M.A.S.H. As Radar (McIntyre) 12:30
(13) MOVIE "MUSICAL" "The Daughter of Rosie O'Grady" 1950 Jane Haver, Gordon MacRae. Daughter of an ex-convict, she is filled up with worried as night by the scolding, music and gaiety of the period. (2 hrs., 14 mins.)
(14) TOMORROW
(15) MONEYMOONERS
(16) NEWS SUMMARY
(17) JOE FRANKLIN SHOW
(18) MOVIE "DORAMA" "Ten Little Indians" 1960 Elke Sommer, Oliver Reed. Ten strangely assorted people are themselves trapped at a remote Alpine village reached only by private cable car, where one by one the guests meet death as the mystery unfolds. (2 hrs.)
(19) BEST OF MIDDAY
(20) MOVIE "HORROR" "Brotherhood of Satan" 1970 Strother Martin, L.O. Jones. Small midwestern town is driven into a panic by the disappearance of thirteen children and the brutal deaths of their trapped parents.
(21) MACHIELLEHNER REPORT
(22) M.A.S.H.
(23) JACKIE GLEASON SHOW
(24) GDD COUPLE

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13 Lullaby
14 Lullaby
15 Lullaby
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30 Lullaby

Down

1 Ransom
2 Obsolete drink
3 Pines
4 Favors
5 Gene Kelly-Frank Sinatra movie
6 Telegram
7 San Antonio mission
8 Bishop's job
9 Mowgli's home, in Kipling works
10 Lined up
11 -sive
12 Mordred
13 More sugary
14 Word before both or the
15 Word before both or the
16 Position, combining form
17 "The Seven Year Itch"
18 Silesian's line
19 Terry
20 Brooks of Hollywood
21 The three chromosomes
22 Arrested
23 Last name
24 Hunting, dog and marriage
25 Swedish pop group
26 Rugged cliff
27 Author of "Light in August"
28 Footnote for Scrooge McDuck
29 Mrs. Charles Chaplin
30 Outdoor festival
31 American League
32 Use certain means
33 Bridge name
34 Area of Northern Ireland
35 -- to Billy Joe

Crossword
by Mike Shenk
(Answers in tomorrow's Collegian Classifieds)

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