

Both conductors excellent

Symphony, chorale impressive

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The Rogue Valley Symphony Orchestra and the Rogue Valley Chorale and their respective conductors, Roger

Review

G. Dickey and Lynn Sjolund, are to be commended on the excellence of their performances in the opening concert of the fall season Tuesday evening in the Church of the Nazarene, Medford.

The chorale sang the Festival Te Deum, Opus 32, by Benjamin Britten and the Missa Dancti Nicolai by Joseph Hayden. The orchestral numbers were a Canzona per Sonare No. 2 and No. 28 by Giovanni Gabrieli and the Mozart Prague Symphomy, No. 38.

Britten uses the voices as instruments in his Festival Te Deum, producing a warm, strong melodic line. Roberta McKay sang the soprano solo, "Oh Lord, Thy People," with grace and clarity. The organ accompaniment by Larry Crummer provided a dramatic background to the opening, reminiscent of Gregorian chant, and to the

rising triumph of the finale.

The Hayden mass is typical of the 18th Century style, with its delicate, flowing lines, the trills and the gentle modulations. The soloists were Kathryn Gordon, soprano; Doris Sjolund, alto; William Walden, tenor, and Carrol Graber, bass, who all contributed to the charm and sweetness of the mass.

A small instrumental group from the orchestra accompanied the singers, following the original scoring of this work, to preserve the pastoral quality of the music.

The Canzona per Sonare, for brass choir, was performed expertly by the brass section, from the amusing opening statement through the main body of the work, in which each instrument is given an opportunity to perform as soloist. The work is joyous and cheerful, from the bright opening to its sparkling conclusion.

The final number, the Mozart symphony, was a delight and exactly the right composition for the Rogue Valley

Symphony Orchestra to play. Hickey understands the subtleties and nuances of Mozart's genius, bringing out the flowing melodies in fine ensemble work. The Prague is one composition that cannot be heard often enough, and the reading Tuesday evening is one that can be commended for its excellence. Especially fine were the delicate melody in the Largo, and the chord progressions that produced a soft and gentle line. The final movement, bright and happy, ended the evening on a note of light-hearted charm.

Mention should be made of the Church of the Nazarene as a hall for concerts. Its acoustics are excellent, the building is handsome and the pews are comfortable. It is a pleasure to be able to enjoy fine music in such a suitable setting. In the absence of a real concert hall in Medford, the Church of the Nazarene provides a much-needed substitute, although its size prevents it being adequate for any performance likely to attract a large crowd. But it certainly is preferable to the Hedrick Junior High School gym.