Second Fall Chapel Organ Recital Called "Enjoyable, But Imperfect"

MIT Chapel \( \text{Robert Petitti, organist} \)

November 13, 1955

by Allen C. Langfeld '57

On Sunday, November 13, at 8:30 p.m., the second free organ recital of the term, performed in an overburdened auditorium, was presented in the MIT Chapel.

Mr. Robert Petitti, organist and director of the First Unitarian Church of Lynn and also organist for the morning devotional service in the chapel, is a fairly competent organist, although he makes no pretense of being primarily a soloist, but, rather, an accompanist. This was very evident in the D Major Prelude and Fugue in D major, Handel's No. 6 in E major, and Corelli's Concerto. It was indeed strange that while performing the Corelli, Miss Shackenberg, a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, gave every indication of being quite a mediocre violinist although she seemed to have had excellent instruction. Let me explain.

One of the most difficult elements to produce is a good tremolo and this, consequently, a contributing factor in the appraisal of an accomplished musician. Miss Shackenberg executed a marvelous tremol: but, oddly enough, displayed very sloppy technique in changing positions and, moreover, seemed to be obsessed with the idea that a "sobbing" vibrato is pleasant. This is not to imply that the general performance was poor; for it was not, but to the casual observer these anomalies, imperfections definitely detracted from the overall enjoyment of the program.

It is the opinion of the reporter, judging by the response to the first two recitals, both in the size and reaction of the audience, that there is a genuine interest in the MIT family for this type of music, and the reviewer sincerely hopes that recitals of this nature will be given frequently.

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