FRIDAY NIGHT BAND CONCERT CALLED
FINEST EVER BY MIT ORGANIZATION

M. L. T. CONCERT BAND

Krener Auditorium
November 15, 1955

JOHN COOLEY, Conductor

It is difficult to review a concert by the MIT Concert Band because it is hard to establish the proper standard by which their performance is to be evaluated. It is therefore fitting that this reviewer set forth the basis for his criticism.

First, the band is playing the most difficult music ever written for that particular ensemble. Second, the concert performers are amateur musicians who subscribe not once a week, but who rarely have time to indulge in individual practice. Third, they are on other occasions playing in the country which has performed most of the works that the concert band has played, and that group is composed of future professional musicians.

This reviewer, then, shall approach his task hearing in mind the first two conditions and also keeping in mind the third, which caused them no end of trouble last year.

This was the hardest piece which the band has ever tried, and therefore required more preparation than it was given. As a result, the performance was not wholly convincing.

Mr. Persichetti's work is a very fine composition which is masterfully constructed, and which displays the virtuosity well as it is not better than, any other number in the repertoire. The piece reminds one of a Mahler symphony, where the instruments are treated individually rather than as a whole. This reviewer sincerely hopes that the MIT audience will hear another, more accurate, presentation of the symphony.

As for the rest of the concert, the work which fits best is wonderful. The organization consistently displayed the technical facility which made the song of every college concert band in New England. Furthermore, it demonstrated once again the mutual consensus and skill that marks all of its performances, and which causes it to be favorably compared with the best professional bands in the country.

Opening for a moment, musicanship is a quality rarely found in amateur groups, particularly bands; and it is in this that the concert band appears even to the "prestigious machine" of the Big Ten. There is no other non-competitive college band in the country which dare to play original band music exclusively, as is the case at MIT; for original music requires but little of the financial and personnel support required.

Returning to Friday's concert, it must be conceded that the program was excellent one. It was a bit long, as is Mr. Cooley's tendency, but more harm than good. The students are supposed to be responsible adults (otherwise how can we justify their right to elect!), and they should be educated as such, at least by their representatives. The students' freedoms should be interfered with only in extreme cases, when direct harm to others must be prevented. He who dissipates energy should start an educational campaign against it, but should not impugn his opinion, however sound, on others.

To prevent similar abuse I propose:

(a) that on this issue, as well as on all other future issues of equal importance, a referendum be taken.

(b) that in order to provide opportunity for intelligent insertion over the students' representatives, any important ballots be done by roll call, and its results properly recorded and published.

The Tech
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1956

L. E. G. Byrd, Editor

LETTERS

EXPERIMENTS MADE IN PSYCHODYNAMICS

For the past seven years the C. G. Freud Psychodynamics experiment, which emerged from the Freshman class, has been attempting to help the student understand himself, his own behavior. Originally designed as an experiment to aid freshmen in the transition from high school and prep school life to the 24-hour college, it has apparently missed its mark. It has resulted in the students, or at least in some of them, experiencing a bout of restless, antiestablishment symptoms.

The educational process strongly is developing intellectual maturity in the student and hopes that emotive maturity will accompany it. As a consequence of a cross section of other graduates would tend to show that.

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