Stop reading The Way They Did 100 Years Ago

Brandenburg Concerti receive Grand Prix

By Ray Regus

For a new recording set out which should appeal to musical purists. It is a reading of the six Brandenburg Concerti of Bach (BWV 1046-1051) on the signal instruments for which Bach wrote the concerto. The performance is by the Boston Musica Viva under the direction of Nikolaus Harnoncourt. This "live recording" (Telefunken SAWT 9459/60A) won a Paris Grand Prix du Disque.

In record is certainly well deserved. The Concentus Musica plays in the finest happen chamber music tradition, with elegance and virtuosity. They have a very agreeable sound that is often absent in American chamber groups. However, there is a point where mellowness becomes fuzziness, and there are places in the reading where this occurs.

Antique instruments. The instruments used are viola da gamba, blockflote, querviolone, 10-string, and viola da gamba. The viola da gamba is slightly smaller than a cello. Its pretty sound because of its empty strings. Blockflote and quartobass are eighteenth century recorders and wooden flutes respectively. The most interesting instrument is the viola da gamba. Neither the trumpet nor horn has ever been in Bach's day, and what was played is similar to a bugle or hunting horn. But instruments are extremely limited in the number of notes they are able to do. It is also very difficult to play them, as anyone who has heard a bugle or "TPS" will recall. In fact, these instruments are limited to the notes C-C-G-C. When these instruments are played, they give the music a rather charmingly sour turn at times.

For me, we shall soon have an opportunity to hear these instruments. The Concentus Musica is scheduled to be at Sanders Theatre, Harvard, on Nov. 12, sponsored by the Cambridge Society for Early Music. More information should be made in the near future.

--P. P.

The MIT Dramasoup will present two recent plays in the Little Theatre of Senate. On Sept. 18, Friday and Saturday nights, Eugene Ionesco's "Jack-or-one-act plays in the Little Theatre of l available in the near future. It is an amazing and worthwhile experience. The sound of these valveless instruments is quite different from ordinary brass. The first valve was not invented until 1824, at least for the notes C-C-G-C. The question marks should note that not quite in tune with the scale used in music today, and it gives the music a rather charmingly sour turn at times.

Given these difficulties, it would seem that man would write simple parts for the valveless instruments. Not Bach. They are at times as intricate as solo violin parts. They are quite different from ordinary brass. The first valve was not invented until 1824, at least for the notes C-C-G-C. The question marks should note that not quite in tune with the scale used in music today, and it gives the music a rather charmingly sour turn at times.

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