Death warmed over

Bachslash

Masculine-Feminist will be showing at The Weekend Cine Club, with Jean-Pierre Melville’s Le Samouraé and Costa-Gavras’ Mississippi Burning. Performances are tonight through Sunday at 8pm, tickets are $1.50. Call 266-4351 for more info.

The New England Conservatory Scholarship String Quartet will present a recital at Kresge Hall in Boston. The recital will include works from Schubert, Beethoven, and Bach. Admission is free. For more information, call 262-1120.

Music of Bach, performed by Bachschola Musicae, April 3, 1982, 8pm at Jordan Hall.

Under the direction of Martin Pearlman, Bachschola Musicae, Boston’s Baroque orchestra, closed its ninth season with an all-Bach concert. The evening’s program was a tastefully chosen repertoire consisting of Bach’s Orchestral Suite No. 1 in C Major, Concerto in D Major for Harpsichord and Strings, “Nun soll er uns dulden”, a cantata, and the Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 2 and 3.

The first piece, Orchestral Suite in C Major, was a collection of French dances which vary from continually lively to lonesome peasant moods. Typical of the French style, the first and last movements were written in a ‘grave’ tempo with lively, brisk movements in between. The orchestra, however, began with a rather sluggish courante. The violins seemed to drag their bows across the strings as though they were “pushing water” around. The group could have relaxed itself with the livelier gavotte and passepied passages, but the musicians seemed to lack the enthusiasm. What should have brought visions of peasants dancing in the fields instead brought memories of violinists sweating out arpeggios in a practice room.

As for the Harpsichord Concerto, Pearlman could have done both the audience and the violins a favor by leaving the score in the music library. The piece got off to a poor start with Pearlman (on harpsichord) losing the beat with the concert master. The entire group seemed out of sync with Pearlman. Although they eventually resolved the tempo discrepancy, the harpsichordist did not come out as strongly as it should have. One had to really squint one’s eyes to hear what were in fact well done solo passages.

The second half of the evening saw a bit of an improvement. “Nun soll er uns dulden”, one of Bach’s two Italian chamber cantatas, featured a soprano and a harpsichord flute. While the group did a respectable job on the piece, the harpsichord flutist could not be heard. She had a nice technique and a pleasant “woody” tone, but her lack of volume coupled with her exaggerated stage movements (Her swaying to the beat gave her performance an unendurable comic effect) took away from the piece. The one redeeming feature, however, was soprano. Her volume was at an appropriate level and her voice was clear and fall. Her diction and expression also made the listening somewhat enjoyable. To conclude the performance, the group played Brandenburg Concerto No. 3. This concerto was written in such a way that the three string groups, each three parts strong, provided a colorful contrast in the orchestral ensembles. For the most part, the piece was well done. There seemed to be a bit more energy and enthusiasm at this point. The contrasting parts came out especially well with the harpsichordist and bass in the continuo. The only problem was that the orchestra seemed to lack this same amount of energy. It was obvious that they practiced it second time through as an engine!

As a whole, this performance was nothing to rave about. It unfortunately proved that one good omen is an enthusiastic needed to make it worth the bother for Boston’s Bach lovers to make the trip to Jordan Hall or for an especially rainy evening. It was obvious that the musicians were talentless performers that it seemed questionable whether their closing night was also an off night.

Mimi Yarni

The Boston University Opera Theater presents The Rape of Lucretia by Benjamin Britten this Saturday at 8pm. Admission is $4; call 266-3913 for reservations.

The International Student Association will have an open house from 11am-4pm in Kresge Auditorium today. A Mexican Mariachi band will be playing from 1-4 and in Kresge from noon until 4pm.

LSC Presents: Piece of Joan of Arc, Friday at 7:30 in 10:250.

An American Werewolf in London, Friday at 7 and 9:30 in 26-100.

The Seven Percent Solution, Sunday at 8pm and 9:30 in 26-100.

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