The MIT Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Professor David Epstein, Sat., Dec. 10 at Kresge Auditorium.

Saturday night's performance of Mahler's 4th Symphony by the MIT Symphony Orchestra showed a brilliance all too often lacking from the renditions by even the most famous orchestras of the world. For the music to come across from the chaos of a myriad all too fallible humans, but undeterred out of the ether, the sound of each instrument enshrined in mahler's naked truth.

Unbreakable coordination became quickly apparent. Textures of wind and brass first superimposed themselves on strings as in a layer cake, then combined in perfect balance. The attention of the audience was fully captured, time became irrelevant: the clock stopped.

The power of strings rising to a height of ecstasy elated, the sound of brass weaving in and out brought intellectual pleasure, percussion playing shielded. Symphonic winds added depth, and the combination made for a fullness of dimensions but a unity of whole, the capture of the mind and ecstasy of the senses.

With the second movement came a spectrum of emotions; latent tensions hid in seemingly innocent strings to be later revealed in monstrous proportions and allow no listener immunity from the heart of the music.

An inward-looking third movement provided new sensual pleasure. As textures built up, violins and violas joining rising basses and cellos in an open sound full of the least schmaltzy; as a gentle flute responded and an oboe danced, joy and sorrow, stricle and peace walked arm in arm without paradox; as within one run of a bow a whole range of feeling was expressed, we saw a new and deep meaning in the profound music of a complex composer.

Soprano Judith Kellock joined the ensemble for the fourth movement which contains the text Life in Heaven. Though her diction was not at all times perfect, the spirit was there. Backed by a rainbow of orchestral colors, an intense rendition reached a peak in the transparent sound produced at the invocation of the name of St. Peter. Diving glory was then followed but not transcended by the excitement of a wasp-like resonance of strings.

The word Tod (death) drew a nervous little ripple in the strings, but capture returned as we heard of angels baking bread in a heaven the MIT Symphony Orchestra joined to the human and mortal earth in a quite stunning performance given at a new plateau of the ensemble's expressive power.

Bonanza: Suzanne M. Robotham, D.D.S.

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BAKE SALE

The Class of '86 (Paul Gray's Little Dahling) will be holding a Holiday Bake Sale in Lobby 10 on Dec. 12 & 13. Cookies, Cakes and even Rice Crispy Marshmallow Treats will be available for consumption.

RING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Class of '86 Ring Committee has chosen a ring company. And the winner is... Herff Jones/Dieges & Clust. For more details on the Class of '86 Ring Committee please read our latest newsletter.

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Class of 1985

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Love,
Class of '85

UA News

NEWSLETTER

The Class of '86 newsletters have arrived. They were sent out over the weekend and offer you a chance to get to know your elected officials. Also, it is a great way to find out exactly what your class has been up to. If you have not yet received your copy or you would like another copy of the newsletter please call Toll Free 800-866-3465.