MIT Symphony Orchestra gives mixed performance

The MIT Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alan Yamamoto, Essex Auditorium, October 25, 1985. The orchestra provided a colorful opening, and soloist Abbott Ruskin entered with a performance that was fluent and free-ranging. Ruskin, who is appropriate to an early Scriabin work, was absorbed in his music—but the performance of Tchaikov's 'The Impresario' was less likely to overtax MIT's frequent brass and percussion playing. Overall, though, the piece came across as unified and polished. Yamamoto would have done better to have foregone some fortissimo in favor of a more restrained and carefully-shaped reading which would have been less likely to overtax MIT's frequently profound, often brilliant, but nonetheless young and sensitive orchestra.

The Boston Lyric Opera Company embarked on a splendid double-bill last Friday, but floundered in the first half. Walton's 'Facade' for the concert itself, according to a member of the orchestra interviewed after the concert, Yamamoto had also chosen rather different tempi from those rehearsed by the orchestra's regular conductor, and this choice may have led to the confusion which ensued: The strings were seriously strained for much of the piece, and it was a hopeless task for Yamamoto to attempt to keep them together.

There were some pleasant spots, though: The third movement pizzicato had charm to it; winds added a quintessentially Russian color to the piece in several passages, and there were also moments of impressive brass and percussion playing. Overall, though, the piece came across as unified and polished. Yamamoto would have done better to have foregone some fortissimo in favor of a more restrained and carefully-shaped reading which would have been less likely to overtax MIT's frequently profound, often brilliant, but nonetheless young and sensitive orchestra.

If you have not received a class newsletter and survey, it is because we do not have an address for you—we do not have an address for you. If you are interested, please contact Beth at 737-330. If you received a newsletter and survey, it is because we do not have an address for you—we do not have an address for you. If you are interested, please contact Beth at 737-330. The committee designs and organizes programs in the Student Center. They meet once a week every Monday from 3:30-4:30. In this knowledge, that you will come to appreciate it.

Larry Yu '89, Mike Fox '88 & Mike Couris '89 (for work above and beyond your responsibility). We would like to be able to help, even though they couldn't be there).

Belated cheers to SCC for putting up bulletin boards through-out the Student Center.

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