THE YEAR IN MUSIC

a splendidly adrenal account of Berlioz’ Symphonie funèbre et triomphale in November. The Band was, possibly, just a trifle overenthusiastic: the MIT Concert Choir led by John Oliver tried to compete with them, but was squashed by the Concert Band, which won the event 5-0.

The MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players provided some of the most entertaining, as well as touching, singing of the year. The April production of Mikado was delightful, but November’s Yeoman of the Guard added poignancy to humor, with David Harrison bringing a sense of tragedy and humanity to the role of Jack Point in as powerful and professional a performance as one could desire.

One of the most impressive on-campus arts events of the year, however, was in a dorm: MacGregor, Harpsichordist Don Angle turned up to provide a witty evening of popular tunes played on the harpsichord for the House Seminar taught by housemaster Stephen Lippard. A reception followed. Small, intimate events which get people together for enjoyable and sociable evenings are much-needed at MIT. This innovation sets an excellent example, and should be emulated elsewhere around the campus.

David Epstein conducts the MIT Symphony Orchestra (top), and Nancy Knowler and Frank Wallace, members of “Live Oaks” perform in Lindsay Chapel at Emmanuel Church (above).

John Harbison

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Gong award of the year award goes to Richard Dyer, the latter wearing his usual poker-faced impression. "Those were frying pans," weren’t they?, I inquired of Schwartz who, afraid to display his ignorance in front of the great man from the Globe, ventured to suggest they were gongs. Harbison was lucky enough to conform that the instruments were indeed frying pans, good solid steel ones because, as he pointed out, aluminum just wouldn’t produce the right effect.

Perhaps a year from now, I’ll be able to report that the musical problems of aluminum have been solved, so that recession-priced cookware can be used to serve up the latest musical offerings.

SEPTEMBER

29 The Supreme Court,-at last in suspended activities of the Communist Party, which has selected the Soviet Union for 10 years.

President George Bush recognizes the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as independent states. The republics’ 1940 annexation by the Soviet Union was never recognized by the United States.

3 Fumes on MIT sell and bonus increases to 60 cents and 60 cents, respectively.

4 For the first time, freshmen take a PreCalculus/Calculus diagnostic test. Arthur P. Mattuck, professor of mathematics, says performance was "about what I expected, but I would not call it good." At least one freshman calls the test "a waste of time."

10 Senate confirmation hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court begin.

The Office of the Dean for Student Affaires announces that 50 percent of freshmen and transfer students received their first and second choices in this year’s housing lottery, the first under a changed assignment system.

16 Clarence Thomas seeks five days of testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. He tells reporters that he has been treated fairly by the Senate, which recommends that the full Senate approve or reject judicial nominees.

16 Prosecutors against Lt. Col. Oliver North drop the case, saying they would not be able to prove his trial was not influenced by testimony he gave Congress under a grant of immunity.

17 The {SMU/Edwards} series, an experimental alternative to fulfilling the freshman chemistry requirement, is cancelled because of scheduling difficulties between the program’s three professors.