

# Beaux Arts Trio does everything right

By Jonathan Brodie

"Ah, yes - 1827 - Wasn't that the year that Schubert did nothing wrong?"

Audience remark overheard during the *Beaux Arts Trio* concert last Saturday night. It is a statement difficult to dispute - unless one wishes to find fault with the Double Cello Quintet, the two piano trios, and other masterpieces composed by the youthful Schubert a year before his death. Yet the perspicacious speaker of this remark failed to mention that Menahem Pressler, Isidore Cohen, and Bernard Greenhouse (sitting right in front of him in the Sheldon Art Gallery) were, like the elder Schubert, doing nothing wrong.

## music review

Perhaps it would be more positive to say that the *Beaux Arts Trio*, in performing music of Mozart, Shostakovich, and the aforementioned Schubert for the Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music series, were responsible for doing everything right.

One should not "review" a *Beaux Arts Trio* concert - that is a dispassionate and distant word. Instead, one may catalogue a series of subtle musical experiences that conceivably could be carried to the very foot of a chamber-music lover's death bed. It is a familiar thought that a piece of music, capable of being re-performed at any time, may take an important place in the human memory. Yet

it also seems possible for a single, unrecorded performance to stick to a person's mind - to take on the tracings of a masterpiece; the *Beaux Arts Trio* did not let its Lincoln audience down.

Pressler, et al, began with a Mozart trio (K. 502) that conveniently expressed the core of the *Beaux Arts'* mastery - impeccable ensemble. That rare quality, no matter how impassioned the playing became, never left the stage. Greenhouse, who always manages to look remarkably impressive and serene behind his cello, let out with a held note over two or three measures in the *largo* movement that, nine hours later, he still seems to be holding.

To this early-music buff, who generally listens to the music of Captain Tobias Hume and his contemporaries (he died in 1650) the E minor Shostakovich Trio should have presented some problems. After all, it was written in this century, it has more than its fair share of gimmicks - but it is also an overwhelming masterpiece. Violinist Cohen, despite his slightly gruff demeanor, played with an Hessian abandon that the music deserves.

Placed on the piano bench was the irrepressible Pressler. He is not only a virtuoso - but he is also fun to watch. In the Schubert plus 100 trio (as well as previous two pieces) he hardly glanced at his music. Thus it was possible for us to witness his delightful facial expressions. His sometimes pious, sometimes clownish features were always eloquent. His playing was more so.

No matter where one places his musical talents, no matter what meddum of human endeavor he is concerned with - it is always enriching to watch masters at work. The *Beaux Arts Trio* is comprised of masters - and we have been enriched.

Jonathan Brodie is a graduate student in the UNL School of Music.

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APRIL 18, DEADLINE.

This is a list of musical events scheduled for this week. Each is open to the public with no admission charge unless otherwise noted. (S) denotes a UNL School of Music event.

## face the music

**Monday:** Sinfonia Jazz Concert, featuring Ray Sasaki on trumpet, 8 p.m. in Kimball Recital Hall, tickets \$2.50 at the door. (S)

**Tuesday:** Varsity Glee Club directed by Charles Smith (program includes songs from musical

comedy, opera and English ballads), 8 p.m. in Kimball Hall. (S)

**Wednesday:** Student recitals Stephanie Mendyk (senior, oboe), Larry Musilek (senior, trumpet) and Holly Berquist (senior, organ), in the Sheldon Art Gallery auditorium; Jacqueline Jansma (senior, saxophone) in the Choral Room (number 119) of Westbrook Music Building. All begin at 3:30 p.m. (S)

**Friday:** The Nebraska Chamber Orchestra featuring David Van de Bogart on flute, Audun Ravnan on piano and Emanuel Wishnow as conductor, 8 p.m. at First Plymouth Congregational Church, 20th and D Sts. Admission by series ticket or \$5 regular and \$3 students at the door; Student recital-Don Freed (graduate, voice) in Kimball Hall at 3:30 p.m. (S)

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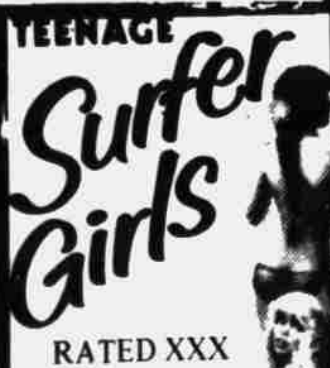
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