

At The Walker Art Center Lothar Klein's Works Featured

By Ron Replogle

Of the Daily editorial page staff

★ A program of music by Midwest composers, presented last Friday night at Walker Art Center, gave music lovers a rare opportunity to evaluate the work being done in the immediate Twin City vicinity.

The program's two large works were both by Lothar Klein, teaching assistant in music. The Trio for Clarinet, Harp, and Flute (1952), which led off the program, seemed to be a sprightly piece with a flowing pastoral-like second movement between an elfish allegro and a firm but fleeting ballando. The work unfortunately received a mediocre performance with the players giving a wooden, stilted quality to music that seemed to call for a freer interpretation. The breathiness of the flutist was also distracting.

KLEIN'S PIANO Quintet (1953) concluded the program and received a sterling performance. Edmond Jacobsen and Shirley Thompson, violins; Meyer Douglas, viola; Rubi Wentzel, cello and Bernhard Weiser, piano, surmounted the obstacles of this difficult quintet in an exemplary fashion.

The quintet itself is more imaginative and technically more mature than the trio. Its first two movements are full bodied and authoritative, but appeared to lack incoherence. The final movement was witty, lively and much more closely knit.

Soprano Ethel Wagner DeLong, accompanied by Mr. Weiser, sang three songs by Wayne Peterson, instructor in music. They were: Summer Night (Tennyson), Prelude I (T. S. Eliot) and Inversnaid (Gerald Manley Hopkins). Although modern in conception, the songs have a strongly romantic tendency which adds greatly to their effectiveness.

INTERLUDE—DUO for Viola by Gene Gutsche of White Bear Lake completed the program. This piece is a short divertissement in the 12 tone system with an intricate rhythmic pattern.

Unlike most 12 tone music, this vignette, is not hard on the ears. From hearing this piece and the performance of Mr. Gutche's piano concerto last summer, this critic believes that Gutche is one of the better of today's composers. He probably would become well-known and well-liked in the concert field, if he could get his music performed.



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