

Iturbi's Back ... So's His Talent

by FRANK CROCIATA

Jose Iturbi returned to Rochester last Thursday to open the Philharmonic subscription series. Iturbi left his post as conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic in 1943 and has not been heard in Rochester since 1957.

It is pleasant to note that after a career of making sentimental movies, accompanied by the virtual disintegration of his most singular outstanding pianistic talent, a podium artist of considerable ability and sensitivity has emerged. That ability, with his personal magnetism pulled the directorless Philharmonic together for one of the most rewarding musical evenings of the past two seasons.

Iturbi, the conductor of several smaller orchestras, appraised the problems of our Philharmonic accurately. He directed with a clear and incisive beat, with tempi that were never excessive or unplayable.

Iturbi's program began with Cesar Franck's tone poem "Le Chausson Maudit" (The Accursed Hunter), an example of romantic program music exploiting supernatural themes with unusual restraint and understanding.

Iturbi then turned to Debussy's "Le Mer", a work often played here, and invariably played badly. This is the finest performance I have heard of the symphonic sketches, though it was not without its problems. In the second sketch, "Gambols of the Waves", the polyphony fell apart twice within the string sections. Iturbi patiently brought the rough edges together so the sectional problems did not mar the imperious logic of his interpretation. In the third movement,

"Dialogue between the Wind and the Sea", the orchestra was so technically secure, thanks to Iturbi, that he was able to introduce some particularly exciting interpretive ideas.

After intermission, Mr. Iturbi introduced two Spanish compositions to Rochester. Xavier Montsalvatge's "Partita 1958" is a four-part Spanish folksong suite, showing considerable compositional technique. Ramon Marti's "Landscape" is a kind of mood piece, with snatches of folk tunes and popular melodies, that were turned out by the dozens by lesser French composers of this century. Neither work was particularly profound, or even important, but they are Spanish showpieces easily suited to Iturbi's temperament and the orchestra's capabilities, and for that reason are worth hearing.

The orchestra closed with three dances from Manuel de Falla's ballet "The Three Cornered Hat." The lightweight pieces were accurately played and quite exciting. Mr. Iturbi was recalled many times.

Next Sunday at 4 p.m. Walter Hendl will conduct the Philharmonic in the first Mozart series concert at Kilburn Hall. The program has not been announced.

At 3:30 p.m. that same afternoon, Taavo Virkhaus will conduct the University of Rochester Chorus in a performance of Kodaly's "Te Deum" at the Interfaith Chapel, free to the public.

Sunday at 8 p.m. Richard Volpe, associate professor of piano at Nazareth College, will give a recital of the piano music of Sergei Rachmaninoff. Mr. Volpe's program will include the seldom performed "Variations on a Theme of Correlli," Op. 42 and the "Piano Sonata No. 2 in b-flat, Op. 36." Volpe has distinguished himself as the most technically competent and exciting of local pianists. The recital will take place at Nazareth Arts Center and is free.



FATHER MELOCKE

Nature of Love Discussed at CFM

A study of man and his relationships must begin with a study of God, because man is a reflection of his Maker, Father Arthur Melocke told a Christian Family Movement group in a recent talk here.

Christ gave a new dimension to love, he said, in the command to "love one another as I have loved you." But no one can love another, Father Melocke added, until he has learned to love himself.

The speaker, a Canadian who lectures throughout the Western hemisphere on marriage and family life, was presented by the St. Christopher parish CFM. His topic was Divorce vs. Lasting Love.

Children do not belong to parents, but to God, and God's help is always available, the priest assured his 200 listeners.

Courier-Journal

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



STOP

THIS
STEAL!

PROPOSITION
NO. 1

VOTE

Proposition 1 will add \$20,000,000 a year to State spending for public housing and ALSO require matching subsidies from local government in either cash or tax exemption! In ADDITION—YOU—the Taxpayer, will lose your voting voice in State Bond issues.

NO

GO BOWLING!

FOR FUN TONIGHT!

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



... the quality of the justice you get,
depends on the quality of the
judge you elect ...

REGAN For City Court Judge

DEMOCRAT-LIBERAL ★ VOTE ROW B OR D

Qualifications:

- ★ Found "QUALIFIED" for City Court Judge—Monroe County Bar Association
- ★ Graduate Degree in Criminal and Constitutional Law, Yale Law School
- ★ Professor of Law—St. John Fisher College
- ★ Counsel to Judiciary Committee, Constitutional Convention 1967
- ★ Graduate, Military Justice School (United State Navy)

COURT COMMITTEE TO ELECT REGAN, CHARLES F. CRIMI, CHAIRMAN