

PRAGUE SYMPHONY IN CONCERT HERE

Visitors, Led by Smetacek, Play to Capacity Audience

Probably few musicians or regular music followers here had heard of the Prague Symphony and Vaclav Smetacek, its conductor, before the orchestra's American tour began recently. For most of us, the Czech Philharmonic and its conductor, Karel Ancelr, have been the familiar names in the Czechoslovak symphonic world up to now.

A few Prague Symphony recordings of early Dvorak symphonies (one led by Mr. Smetacek) are available here on a minor label, but little more. Nevertheless, when the orchestra gave a concert at Philharmonic Hall on Saturday night, a capacity audience showed up. New York music-lovers of Czech descent had obviously heard about it.

The program offered Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony, Beethoven's Piano Concerto in B flat and Dvorak's Symphony in E minor ("From the New World"). Eva Bernathova was the piano soloist.

In the Mozart and Beethoven, the string tone and a nice solidity and warmth about it that gave these works a friendly, comfortable quality. The woodwinds blended agreeably with the strings, and the general orchestra sound was satisfying.

Mr. Smetacek's interpretations followed traditional outlines uneventfully, and the players followed his businesslike direction comfortably. If the Mozart was better than the Beethoven, it was because Miss Bernathova, a rather matronly pianist, was more earnest and hard-working in her playing than she was successful. No matter what she did, the piano music seldom had the free flow of energy and tunefulness it needs.

ALLEN HUGHES

Chloe Owen Gives Program of Songs, First in 18 Years

By PETER DAVIS

Like so many young singers of a decade or so ago, Chloe Owen presented her credentials — a well received Town Hall debut in 1951 — and promptly left for Europe to pursue an operatic career. Subsequent New York appearances have been few (most notably in the Little Orchestra's 1966 performance of Janacek's "Jenufa"), and the soprano's recital last night in Alice Tully Hall was her first hereabouts in 18 years.

The program was something of a tour de force: four 20th-century song cycles, each requiring radically different vocal adjustments. If Miss Owen did not always emerge completely triumphant, she earned high marks for imagination and solid accomplishment.

Nicholas Flagello's four "Contemplazioni di Michelangelo" sound very much like second-hand Respighi, although the composer had cleverly calculated his vocal effects. Miss Owen sang them with splendid tonal opulence, obviously relishing the songs' arching operatic lines.

Milhaud's "Chansons de Rossard" were written for Lily Pons in 1941 and call for extreme agility and exacting coloratura. Here the soprano successfully rescaled her large voice down to fit the music, and while some of her highest tones were hardly pleasant, the performance was a model of accuracy and style.

The subtly distilled Romanticism of Berg's "Seven Early Songs" seemed to elude Miss Owen, but Surinach's "Flamenco Meditations" found her again in peak form. Based on five "Sonnets from the Portuguese" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, these evocations of the flamenco idiom are a bit commonplace but require wide-ranging dramatic contrasts. Miss Owen and her fine accompanist, Phillip Oliver, supplied all the necessary excitement and turned even the dross into an absorbing statement.

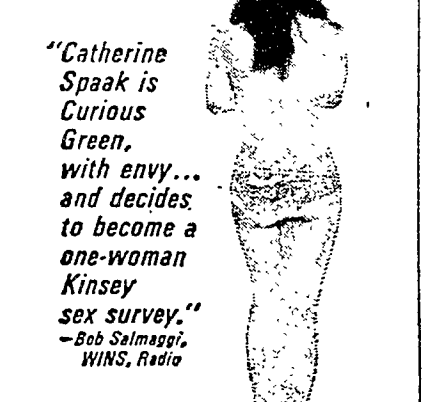
The "New World" Symphony, which called for larger forces and put more emphasis on wind instruments than the earlier works did, made the orchestra sound thinner and less assured, less smooth than it had at the beginning. The Dvorak spirit was there, but the tonal texture lacked the richness we are used to.

Angela Lansbury to Play Witch in Disney Picture

Angela Lansbury has been signed to star in "Bedknob and Broomstick," a musical comedy to be made in live-action and animation by Walt Disney Productions. She will play an amateur witch who attempts to save England from a World War II Nazi invasion. Ron Moody, who scored as Fagin in the musical film, "Oliver!" will portray a charlatan who teaches her witchcraft by mail.

The film will be produced by Bill Walsh, who co-authored the script with Don Da Gradi. Robert Stevenson will direct, starting early next year. The score has been composed and written by Richard M. and Robert B. Sherman.

NOW Catherine Spaak is Curious Green, with envy... and decides to become a one-woman Kinsey sex survey.



THE LIBERTINE

- Manhattan, Nassau, Belmont, Essex, Bronx, Art Jerome Circle, LACONIA, SURREY, WHITESTONE D-I, BROOKLYN, AVENUE U, CARLTON, DELUXE, 46TH STREET, HIGHWAY, KENT, PENNWAY, RUGBY, SHEEPSHEAD SHORE, WESTBURY, AUSTIN, CENTER, COMMUNITY, DRAKE Rego Park, LEFFERTS, MAYFAIR Flushing, POLK, JACKSON Heights, ROCHDALE, STRAND Astoria, BELAIR, YALE Stream, GRAND AVENUE CINEMA, BALDWIN, HEMPSTEAD, HEMPSTEAD, LIPS (starts Beach NOV. 4), MERRICK (starts Nov. 4), PIX, Far Rockaway, ROSLYN Roslyn, STUDIO I, Lybrook, KENT, SUNRISE D-I, Valley Stream, WESTBURY, CINEMA Harrison, HASTINGS Hastings, AMBOY D-I, Sayreville, LIVINGSTON D-I, Livingston, LOE'S STATE, NEWARK D-I, Newark, ROCHDALE, Newark, STRAND Astoria

ALL MALE FILM FESTIVAL IN COLOR! early mocco A TOTAL OF 15 TOP HITS! featuring 'WEEEEE' 'INDIAN GIVER' 'MID-BOY' 'DOUBLE EXPOSURE' 'VIVA LEATHER' 'MY FRIEND AND I' 'THREE ON A SPREE' 'POOL BUDDIES' 'THE HITCH-HIKER' 'A BOY AND HIS DOG' 'FANNY'S HILL' 'LIKE MACK' 'WANTED' 'EVERY FLY' PARK-MILLER 43rd St. Bel. 6th & B'way BR-9-3970

black on white THE two sides of love RAYLEY METZGER presents A FILM BY TINTO BRASS with ANITA SANDERS - TERRY CARTER NINO SEGURINI directed by TINTO BRASS music composed and performed by FREEDOM production by JONATHAN WESTON and MICHAEL LEASE produced by LION FILMS - AN AUDUBON FILMS RELEASE - EASTMANCOLOR PERSONS UNDER 17 CAN NOT BE ADMITTED

Join the mutinous military in their all-out drive to sabotage the military industrial complex! SIGN OF THE VIRGIN AMERICAN PREMIERE TODAY 5th AVENUE CINEMA

LAST 4 DAYS! Grove Press Presents: SUSAN SONTAG'S Duet for Cannibals A game for a revolutionary (rich), his wife (beautiful), and the two young student radicals they devour. (Or do they?) A sexual fantasy. A metaphysical mystery. A black comedy. An erotic tour de force.

"The Royal Hunt of the Sun" IS A VERY ENTERTAINING MOVIE. N.Y. Times THE FINE ARTS

"Uncut are the orgies. They go on forever." DAILY NEWS KEIR | SENTA | LILLI DULLEA | BERGER | PALMER de SADE SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE JOHN HUSTON as "THE ABBE" COLOR by Moviola American International Pictures

THE SECRET OF SANTA VICTORIA PANAVISION TECHNICOLOUR United Artists Victoria 10, 10.5, 11:30, 12:25, 2:45, 4:15, 6:40, 8:10, 10:10

"Battle of Britain" A Harry Saltzman Production color by Technicolor United Artists Demille 86 ST. EAST 34th St. East

"A MASTERFUL MOVIE, MADE BY A MASTERFUL MOVIE-MAKER!" Bob Salmaggi, WINS Radio "REMARKABLE! TENDER AND VIOLENT! VISUAL BEAUTY!" Kathleen Carroll, N.Y. Daily News

ADALEN 31 WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY BO WIDERBERG AN AB SVENSK FILMINDUSTRI PRODUCTION TECHNICOLOUR TECHNICOLOUR A The Little Carnegie

ISABEL SARLI A Nova International Picture Release Written and directed by Susan Sontag. A Sandrews Production starring Ariadna Asti, Gosta Ekman, Lars Ekborg, Agneta Ekmanner. An Evergreen Film. 7th Ave. at 57th St. PL 7-2131 12:15, 2:20, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15 & 10:00

"ONE OF THIS YEAR'S BETTER MOVIES! Funny, romantic, touching!" Good Housekeeping Mag KATHARINE HEPBURN The MADWOMAN of CHAILLOT TECHNICOLOUR FROM WARNER BROS. PLAZA 58th St. East of Madison Ave. - EL 5-3220 12:45, 3:30, 7:40, 10:10

WINNER! 3 ACADEMY AWARDS JOSEPH E. LEVINE presents AN AVCO EMBASSY FILM PETER KATHARINE O'TOOLE HEPBURN a MARTIN POLL Production THE LION IN WINTER AN AVCO EMBASSY FILM PANAVISION COLOR 57th St. Lincoln Art Theatre 225 West 57th Street (212) 582-2826 TODAY 8:30 P.M. TOMORROW 2:30 & 8:30 P.M.

Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice "THE FRESHEST FILM OF THE YEAR!" McCALL'S A FRANKOVICH PRODUCTION FOR COLUMBIA RELEASE Astor 10, 10.12, 10.2, 10.5, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15

AVCO EMBASSY EAST 59th St. Bel. 3rd & 2nd Aves. 6th 8:15, 10:15, 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15, 12:15

Wednesday: New York says hello to "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" "The surprise hit of sexy '69" - Look Magazine Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Presents An Arthur P. Jacobs Production starring Peter O'Toole Petula Clark "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" co-starring Sir Michael Redgrave and Sian Phillips Screenplay by Terence Rattigan Directed by Herbert Ross Produced by APJAC Productions Associate Producer Mort Abrahams Music and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse Based on the Novel by James Hilton Music Conducted and Supervised by John Williams

PALACE THEATRE Broadway at 47th St. 757-2626 World Premiere Nov. 5th - Benefit Project Hope. Regular reserved seat engagement starts Thursday, Nov. 6th. Box office opens daily 10 A.M. Sunday at noon. "SEE THIS FILM IF YOU DON'T SEE ANOTHER ALL YEAR. BRILLIANT!" "ISABEL SARLI MAKES RAQUEL WELCH LOOK LIKE TWIGGY STANDING BACKWARD." "OH! WHAT A LOVELY WAR" "NOW WE'VE SEEN EVERYTHING!" "YES!" (COUNT THE POSSIBILITIES) Distributed by Cannon Releasing Corporation "I, A Lover" 55th Street Playhouse 55th St. bet. 6 & 7 Aves. JU 6-4590

THE PARONET 58th St. at 3rd Ave. - EL 5 1663 4 THEATRE "By all means Go!" "I Am Curious (Yellow)" Vilgot Sjoman's complete and uncut I Am Curious (Yellow) is "a landmark likely to permanently shatter many of our last remaining movie conventions," says William Wolf of Cue Magazine. The Evergreen Film presented by Grove Press stars Lena Nyman. A Sandrews Production. ADMISSION RESTRICTED TO ADULTS.

THE STERILE CUCKOO New FORUM 47th St. 47 St. & B'way - PL 78220-1 10, 12, 2:30, 5:40, 7:30, 9:20, 11:10 LOEW'S TOWER EAST 12 St. & 3rd Ave. - TR 91313 12, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

Fanny Hill new... and from Sweden COLOR by DeLuxe Distributed by CINEMATION INDUSTRIES Astor 10, 10.12, 10.2, 10.5, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15 AVCO EMBASSY EAST 59th St. Bel. 3rd & 2nd Aves. 6th 8:15, 10:15, 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15, 12:15