

News & Opinion

Business Today

Sports

Entertainment

Arts & Culture

Movies

Music

Television

TV Guide

Cartoons

Crossword Puzzle

Lifestyle

Services/ Help

Advertisers

carfind.com

Contact Us

Crossword Puzzle

Home Delivery

homefind.com

Horoscope

jobfind.com

News Tips

Personals

Search

Special Reports



Play Free Games!
Win Real \$\$\$

- Poker
- Blackjack
- 3 Eyed Bingo
- Pop Quiz



[e-news](#)

MUSIC

NEC's youth orchestra brings a tough symphony to life

Music Review/by T.J. Medrek

Saturday, June 3, 2000

New England Conservatory Youth Symphony, conducted by Benjamin Zander, at Jordan Hall, Boston, last night; repeats tomorrow.

Anyone who walked into Jordan Hall last night expecting a "mere" student recital would have left some two hours later overwhelmed by what they'd just experienced.

No, the playing by the teenage members of the New England Conservatory Youth Philharmonic Orchestra wasn't technically perfect. But under the leadership of Benjamin Zander - who seems as much magician as maestro - these young men and women did something even more impressive. They brought one of the most challenging of all symphonies for any orchestra, Mahler's Ninth, vividly to life.

Before they did that, they performed Cynthia Wong's Second Piano Concerto, composed just last year, with the composer herself as soloist. With this work Wong, who at 17 already has a resume filled with awards for both composing and playing, showed first of all that she's studied hard. The 20-minute, three-movement concerto brought to mind those of Ravel and, especially, Prokofiev - both fine models for anyone.

But even better were those moments when Wong's individual voice shone through with, say, a quick, quirky violin solo or a melody that took a delightfully unexpected turn. Let's hope that her continued studies (she's off to the famed Juilliard School in New York this fall) encourage that individuality. Her playing was vigorous and compelling - Wong's is clearly no small musical talent - as was the orchestra's.

Mahler's Ninth still, more than 90 years since its completion, may be the most extraordinary symphony written since Beethoven. It's a nearly 90-minute meditation on dying, written shortly after both the death of the composer's 4-year-old daughter and the diagnosis of the heart disease that would eventually end his own life. The symphony's four movements correspond roughly to a dying man's journey from initial disorientation and sorrow through denial, anger and, in the last movement, acceptance.

This is tough stuff both musically and emotionally for anyone, let alone young people just starting their lives. And it's no surprise that the toughest parts for them weren't the loud, brashly daring ones but the quiet, reflective passages.

Still, this youthful band delivered a dynamic interpretation in which even the individual flaws had a certain meaning and sincerity. Leave it to Zander to make sure that, above all, they made this music



Search Now



it to Zander to make sure that, above all, they made this music about death live to the fullest.

INTERACTIVE

Talk back to T.J. Medrek

back2top



7.85% at the *fixed rate* of yours!

The advertisement banner features a green background with a yellow speech bubble on the left containing the text '7.85%'. To the right of the speech bubble is a small photograph of a smiling couple. Further right, the text 'at the *fixed rate* of yours!' is written in a white, serif font.

Copyright by the Boston Herald and Herald Interactive Advertising Systems, Inc. No portion of BostonHerald.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission.