

Symphony In Fine Fettle

By HUGH ALDERMAN, Times-Union Music Critic (f/5)
The first major program of Arts Festival X brought the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra under the baton of John Canarina, with Aaron Krosnick, violinist, and the Jacksonville University Chorus (director, Edward Bryan), as guest artists, in the Civic Auditorium last evening.

Presented to the people of Jacksonville by the Jacksonville Council of Arts, it is most unfortunate that the Civic Auditorium was not filled to capacity, for it was a program which could appeal to the musical taste of everyone. This being the first program of the season, one might expect a few rough spots after the summer interlude, but the orchestra was in fine fettle, playing with a sureness and a verve which it was stimulating to hear.

Dazzling Effects

Opening with the demanding brilliance of the Prelude to Act III of "Lohengrin" (Wagner), Canarina was able to capture all of the dazzling effects which are so much a part of the music of Wagner, and the brass choir was excitingly beautiful.

The pleasures of Haydn's "Symphony No. 100 in G Major" displayed some of the finest playing this orchestra has done for quite some time. All of the beauty of sound which is Haydn at his best was executed with perfection, vividness of color and was thoroughly convincing in its varied moods. There was a delicacy of reading, nuances of tone, which enhanced the exquisite phrases of this master symphonist.

Wild Blue Yonder

The novelty of the evening was when the orchestra got with "Musique a Go-Go" (Lothar Klein) and took off — for the wild blue yonder of sound and rhythm! There were wild brasses, dissonant harmonies (!), and yet there emerged a fragile violin line which was downright beautiful.

Everyone had rhythm (All God's Chilluns Got Rhythm!), and while there was a whisper of the percussions, the thin wail of muted trumpets, and a slide of trombones, "Musique a Go-Go" went places! Frankly, your reviewer liked it and thought it was well received by the audience.

Following intermission, Aaron Krosnick, violinist, a newcomer to Jacksonville with the music faculty of Jacksonville University, made his debut with the Jacksonville Symphony as soloist in the Mendelssohn "Concerto in E minor, Opus 64". It was exhilarating to hear such beautiful violin playing

permit your reviewer to hear the performance of the Polovetzian Dances, from "Prince Igor" (Borodin) which included the Jacksonville University Chorus. This was the closing work of the evening.