

First Old Log Concert Is Varied, Successful

By NORMAN HOUK

First concert in the new building of the Old Log theater company was given Saturday night by the St. Paul Chamber orchestra, conducted by Leopold Sipe.

Suzanne Bloch, who plays the lute, recorder and virginal and accompanies her

MUSIC REVIEW

On first hearing the spoken word in the Old Log theater, musicians jumped to the supposition that it would be a wonderful place for music. This has proved happily and completely true. The fine acoustics of the all-wood interior brought out the music

own singing of Elizabethan songs, was the guest artist.

in a very gratifying way, all the way from Mozart's Symphony No. 39 in E-flat by the 31-member orchestra to the exceedingly tender tones of Miss Bloch's solo lute playing.

THE CONCERT began with Bach's Suite No. 2 for flute and strings, with the orchestra's flutist, Mary Roberts Wilson, as soloist. Miss Bloch then played two works she had arranged for lute and orchestra: an Elizabethan suite from Jane Pickering's Lute Book, and renaissance dances for recorder, strings and percussion.

The lute, for those who have not seen or heard one, is shaped like an overgrown mandolin, but has single



Sipe
Soloist, conductor



Miss Bloch

strings. The head containing the tuning pegs is turned back a sharp angle from the fretboard. There are from 15 to 24 strings, tuned in thirds and fourths. The instrument played by Miss Bloch had 19 strings. The sound is rather more like a harpsichord than any modern plucked instrument. Sipe kept the accompaniment light, never obscuring the soloist.

THE SUITE for recorder was lively in a cool way. It was followed by Miss Bloch playing a virginal and singing to her lute accompaniment.

Sipe conducted the orchestra in the premiere of Sym-

phonia Concertante by Lothar Klein, Minneapolis composer. This was for the most part lightly scored, freely dissonant but not cacophonous, with intriguing motion and pattern, engaging whimsy and pungent punctuation.

THE MOZART symphony was the concluding item. It would seem that with an orchestra this size it was very probably heard in much the same form and balance as Mozart would have heard it.

Sipe gave it thoughtful and effective inflections.