

**MUSIC REVIEW**

**3 teens shine with orchestra**

Conductor directs musical coming-out party in Richardson

By Lawson Taitte

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

**R**ICHARDSON — Saturday was youth night with the Richardson Symphony Orchestra.

The audience at Richardson High School, where the orchestra plays, was dotted with third-graders and their families — the fruit of an education program in which orchestra members and volunteers visited every elementary school in the district. And onstage, three Texas high school students played movements from concertos with the RSO.

The students were the top prize winners in the 26th annual RSO/Lennox Young Artist competition. The contest, held Jan. 23 at Richland College, attracted 60 entrants in string, wind and piano divisions.

The three winners were all old hands at competing and at playing with orchestras. Violinist Dawn Hui, a senior at Plano High School, and flutist James DeVoll, a junior at Poteet High School in Mesquite, were first chair in their sections of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra. Pianist Michael Schneider, a senior at Lakeview High School in San Angelo, also plays oboe and violin; he tied for third prize in the wind division of the RSO/Lennox competition and won the piano division.

Mr. DeVoll played the finale of Jacques Ibert's witty Concerto for Flute and showed off a beautiful tone in the sultry middle section of the movement. In the final section of Bruch's Scottish Fantasy, Ms. Hui displayed a similarly captivating and lyrical sound.

Mr. Schneider, on the other hand, went in for pyrotechnics in the first movement of Grieg's Piano Concerto. His youthful flamboyance in the great descending chain of chords that opens the concerto and in the long solo cadenza was refreshing. I hope that the polish that college training will add to his playing does not take away his spontaneity.

Conductor Ansel Brusilow accompanied the young musicians solemnly and efficiently, loosening up only for the bows at the end of Ms. Hui's piece. But then, Mr. Brusilow is an old string player himself.

Berlioz's *Roman Carnival Overture*, which opened the program, was a perfect choice for Mardi Gras weekend, because it portrays a similar pre-Lenten festival. The orchestra sounded especially good in the rollicking scales that move through the overture like showers of streamers and confetti.

The final work, Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*, also proved a rousing success. The drumbeats at the beginning of *The Dance of the Katschei* thundered terrifyingly.

Mr. Brusilow's batonless, free-handed conducting technique constantly reminds anyone who has seen Walt Disney's *Fantasia* of the style of the late maestro Leopold Stokowski. On the evidence of this concert, Mr. Brusilow shares with his fellow ex-Philadelphian a talent for drawing splashy colors and vivid sounds from an orchestra.

—Saturday, February 27, 1993

SAN ANGELO STANDARD-TIMES

**In our opinion**

**Standard-Times applauds**

• San Angelo pianist Michael Schneider, who was one of three featured soloists in the Richardson Symphony Orchestra's "Stars of the Future" concert last weekend. He is a senior at Lake View High School.

J BALCONY  
 Sat. Feb. 20, 1993 8:00 PM  
 RSO  
 RICHARDSON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
 ANSHEL BRUSILOV  
 WITH DAVID BIRCH, CONDUCTOR

