

Sir Georg and The Chicago Symphony gave us Bruckner with splendor

By EARL CALLOWAY

No orchestra on earth could have played Bruckner's "4th Symphony" with such virtuosic magnificence as did the Chicago Symphony, nor could any other living conductor bring from such an enormously artistic musical facility such blazing romantic brilliance and profound beauty as did Sir Georg Solti when he led the world-famous musicians in the work to climax the subscription program this weekend.

It is difficult to imagine any other horn section providing such a clarion splendor, complete with a manifested technical finesse in the 1st Movement's theme while the strings gave support with a soft, but frantic tremolo.

Sir Georg, keeping a strict balance of the mammoth work written during the Post-Romantic Period, he was definitely concerned with dynamics which he used judiciously and with a dramatic impact. His perceptive imagination brought to the movement an astonishing sense of vitality.

The "Andante quasi allegretto," Second Movement, had the celli taking the principal theme above the accompaniment of the violins and violas. With a gliding crescendo, filled with a sterling impeccable concentrated zeal, the brass vibrated with beauty while the string bass accentuated the theme with an effective soulful rhythm. Without losing its established fervor, the Movement was climaxed homogeneous blend as mellow as a vocal choir in a theme like unto a magnificent anthem.

In contrast to Movement 2's serene ending, the third, "Scherzo: Bewegt" Movement danced. Coaxing from the musicians all of the available artistic substance and savoring every nuance, Sir Georg made of this section a frolicking dialogue, but combined with the utmost musical quality.

The full Chicago Symphony unleashed its magnificent splendor, manifesting its superb technical finesse and hurclean golden texture.

Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, a very young artist made her debut performing the Symphony's first performance of Beethoven's "Romance for Violin and Orchestra" and Mozart's "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra No. 3 in G Major."

Extremely talented, the violinist performed with a lyrical passion and the purity of her tones were enhanced by an incredible technical and artistic solidarity.



Sir Georg Solti