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NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

IZQUIERDO

24

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Music: The Maestro's Apprentices

3 Assistant Conductors Lead Philharmonic

By HAROLD C. SCHONBERG

THOSE silent partners of the New York Philharmonic, the three young assistant conductors, took over the orchestra last night in Philharmonic Hall. They are the ones who, in the immortal words of Zinka Milanov, listen, listen, listen and learn, learn, learn. They came to the Philharmonic as winners of the Dimitri Mitropoulos competition, they attend rehearsals, they stand by in case of need (they also serve who, etc.), and every once in a while they have a chance to get before the public.

And this was their night. Sylvia Caduff from Switzerland conducted David Amram's "King Lear" Variations and the Schumann Fourth Symphony. Alain Lombard from France devoted himself to Debussy's "La Mer." Juan Pablo Izquierdo from Chile led the New York premiere of Celso Garrido-Lecca's "Elegia a Machu Picchu" and Ravel's "La Valse."

Mr. Amram entered the picture as composer-in-residence of the Philharmonic, the first one of his kind with the orchestra. For some years he has been the musical director of the New York Shakespeare Festival, and his score is an outgrowth of a song he composed for the 1961 production of "King Lear." It is, alas, not a very good score, being a very conventional set of variations, with a touch of modality here, of Hindemith there, of unconvincing modernism elsewhere. It is the kind of work that takes 15 minutes but sounds like an hour.

Miss Caduff conducted the Schumann Fourth in a musical, earnest manner. The orchestra played dutifully for



Juan Pablo Izquierdo

The Program

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| NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC, Sylvia Caduff, Juan Pablo Izquierdo and Alain Lombard, conductors. At Philharmonic Hall. | |
| King Lear Variations..... | Amram |
| Schumann Fourth Symphony No. 4..... | Schumann |
| La Mer..... | Debussy |
| Elegia a Machu Picchu (U.S. Premiere) | Garrido-Lecca |
| La Valse..... | Ravel |

her, but not much more. She is not the easiest conductor for an orchestra to follow. Her left arm is overactive, and that high, flying left elbow can lead to trouble. It was responsible for at least one false entry. Like many young and overeager conductors, she is also apt to give too many unnecessary cues. Talent she has; but she also needs much more experience.

In the Debussy work, Mr. Lombard was clear, steady and not particularly imaginative. No musical gaucheries marked his interpretation, and he knew exactly what he wanted. But it was the kind of literal interpretation in

Izquierdo Introduces a New Chilean Work

which personality is evicted. It should be pointed out that each of these young conductors has had quite a bit of professional experience. Thus they should not be judged as tyros; a higher set of standards applies.

Not until the arrival of Mr. Izquierdo did a measure of electricity enter the concert. The Chilean conductor, the only one of the three to dispense with a baton, has decided flair and is a mature musician. There was a feeling that he managed to spark up the orchestra; at least, the players went about their work with more alertness, snappier rhythm and more cohesive ensemble than they had shown up to then.

The Garrido-Lecca work, a five-minute piece of Chilean exotica, was an attractive, atmospheric sketch. Machu Picchu was an Inca city, and the composer's elegy makes use of effects believed to be derived from ancient Peruvian music. The idiom was a pleasant mixture of modern and traditional textures, put together with a good deal of personality. The composer bowed from a box, as Mr. Amram had previously.

Mr. Izquierdo conducted the difficult score with impressive security. Even though the music was being heard for the first time, it was clear that the conductor was completely in charge, beating the complicated rhythms with clarity, on top of every situation. And he went on to conduct a glowing performance of "La Valse," in which the climaxes were perfectly gauged and in which the rhythms had grace and pliancy. Mr. Izquierdo is a comer, and one can prophesy a fine career for him.