

# Pianist dazzles audience

**M**OZART is among a very small cadre of classical composers whose music immediately appeals to the layman and the connoisseur.

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic opened its season-ending concert last Saturday evening with the overture to Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro." A sprightly tempo brought the music vividly to life with excellent balance between various elements of the orchestra.

The second work on the program was Brahms' 3rd Symphony, a beautiful work full of charm and inventiveness of thematic ideas. As a conducting teacher I find myself at concerts invariably drawn to the effectiveness of the conductor.

Conducting is an elusive art

form. The conductor doesn't play a single note of music, yet what the audience hears is very much dependent on who is standing on the podium. Many people think it doesn't look too hard. I can tell you, conducting is extremely difficult. The hand gesture coordination is just one aspect of this complex art form, which requires a myriad of other skills to yield a cohesive performance.

David Bowden has all these skills and more. I found his conducting of Brahms' 3rd Symphony to be so exciting with a keen insight on highlighting the structural elements of the music. His tempi were ideal for each movement. One might have liked a few more violins to balance the occasionally dense woodwinds and brass textures in this

work, but the passion and musicality more than made up for any balance issues.

The Rachmaninoff second piano concerto is one of the most loved works in the repertoire, and it is easy to understand why: gorgeous melody, beautiful orchestration, dramatic, lyrical and passionate. In this performance pianist Di Wu was a tour de force. She exhibited a superb technique and genuine personal voice for expression.

I found Ms. Wu's musical ideas convincing, and frequently very moving, connecting intimately with everyone in the hall.

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