

Youth Orchestra wows audience with Baroque presentation



Gold Coast Youth Orchestra performers

By Christopher Siren

MUSIC WRITER

This week, the Gold Coast Youth Orchestra tackled the Italian Baroque masters under the baton of Timothy S. Byrns.

But not before they paid a grand tribute in honor of Memorial Day.

A noble rendition of the Star Spangled Banner in collaboration with the Jr. R.O.T.C of Pompano Beach High School was followed by an arrangement that included signature anthems for each branch of the United States Armed Forces. Veterans in the audience rose to acknowledge their hymns from the Navy to the U.S. Marines.

After such a refined and polished performance, the meatier portion of the program commenced.

Keep in mind, this is a training orchestra of young musicians of various backgrounds. But they were masterful.

The program included two Orchestral Suites performed in their entirety by the Italian Baroque composers, Archangelo Corelli and Antonio Vivaldi.

This youth orchestra possessed the stamina and technical ability to perform these major works of standard orchestral literature with surprising execution.

The program continued with Italian composers, including the classic opera favorite, “Intermezzo Sinfonica” from *Cavalliera Rusticana* by Pietro Antonio Stefano Mascagni, which served as a thoughtful post-intermission programming idea.

Such memorable melodies would stay with anyone new or old to the opera world.

Shifting from the Italians to Norway’s Edvard Grieg, with the *Holberg Suite*, Opus 40, the group demonstrated its ability to change their sound and meet the demands of a more challenging piece that continued through the final “Rigaudon” movement.

While it was clear that this group reflected an accomplished sense of relief at the program’s conclusion, this audience begged for more with a standing ovation.

Giving in to the steady applause, the orchestra played as an encore “A Field of Gold” by Sting.

This may have been added to the orchestra’s repertoire in an effort to reach the not-so-regular chamber orchestra ticket buyer.

It turned out to be a very well written arrangement of what is now perhaps considered a popular standard.

This chamber orchestra is a gem for all the residents of Pompano Beach and the surrounding areas; we are fortunate to have such talent in our own backyard. I for one look forward to seeing and hearing more of them in the future.

The Gold Coast Youth Orchestra is a non-profit organization offering young musicians from middle school through undergraduate school an opportunity to study and perform standard chamber orchestral literature. These young musicians attend schools from all over Broward County. For more information about the Gold Coast Youth Orchestra, visit www.gcyo-fl.org or Facebook.

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