

Virtuosi Quintet is less than virtuoso

By FLAVIA KRONE
The Ransom Wilson Virtuosi Quintet performance Thursday night was less than virtuoso.

The group, consisting of flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn, presented a variety of pieces spanning a wide range of time and styles. Granted, it is difficult to master the intricacies of Mozart, the instrumental gymnastics of Wieniawski and the dissonant lyricism of Irving Fine, but that is the mark of virtuosity.

The Rudder Theater night performance, sponsored by the Opera and Performing Arts Society, lacked consistently excellent quality. Mr. Wilson should rethink the heavy, plodding bassoon which marks the beat in his arrangement of Erik Satie's Gymnopédie No. 1. The resulting fog-horn effect is dull and mars the simplicity and innocence of

the melody. Wilson's arrangement for horn and bassoon in the "Chinese Dance" from The Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky is equally laborious.

Musical arrangement was not the only fault that was evident during the performance. Wilson's flute was

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breathily and tight in Caprice alla Tarantella, a piece by Henri Wieniawski which emphasizes adept instrumental acrobatics. And the entire quintet rendered a sloppy version of the "Russian Dance" from The Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky. The musical notes seemed to crash into one another rather than mazarca together.

However, there were brilliant

moments during the concert along with the not so brilliant.

The quintet's performance of the romantic aria "Una Furtime Lagrima" from Gaetano Donizetti's opera L'Elisir d'Amore thankfully avoided melodramatic mushiness. The emotional expression was sincere and the tones were rich and precise.

Piece Breve by Ibert and Etude Caprice by Moszkowski demonstrated the smooth and supple sound and vivacious wit for which the group is famous.

Perhaps the finest piece of the evening was Partita for Wind Quintet by American composer Irving Fine. The group attacked the difficult rhythms and dissonant melodies in a bold and animated manner, which proved their artistic command as individual artists and as an ensemble.

Don't knock the food; A&M's best

Quality of Texas A&M's University's food service operations directed by Fred Dollar has been recognized with two more major national awards.

The department that operates student, faculty-staff and public dining facilities on campus received the Ivy Award, presented as a result of a vote by the nation's food service personnel, and the 1978 Sivler Plate, given by the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association.

They are among numerous honors

and awards citing the work of Dollar and the department.

"We've worked hard and our people have won everything," the Texas A&M food service director said. "An award may be in my name, but it's the managers, the butchers, bakers and all food service employees who won it."

"All of the people I work for had a hand in it," Dollar added. "Approval and efforts of the Board of Regents, administration and the student body, through the Student Menu Board, are reflected in these awards."

"Most of our managers could be directors elsewhere," he said.

"Thank heavens they're here. They know all areas of food service — managerial, purchasing, personnel and other facets — through meetings and coordination."

The director referred to managers Lloyd Smith, Tom Awbrey, Henry Wellnitz, Ed Hein, Jay Mainord, Perry Moore, Clinton Borchardt, Al Valdez and Jackie Schneck, buyer Joe Marek, head butcher Walter Meier, head baker James Buchan "and the rest."

"To top it off," Dollar said, "there's Hugo Stein and our maintenance section in the department. They can do anything. Hugo operates on the motto: Don't send two when one will do."

The Ivy Award is said to be the most coveted. Sponsored by *Institution* magazine, three "Ivies" are given each year for the best hotel food operation, the best commercial restaurant and best institutional food service, including colleges and universities.

Annual winners are determined by vote of industry personnel on ballots carried by the magazine.

IFMA gives Silver Plates in eight categories, including college-university food service. Texas A&M's department was nominated by presidents of two state restaurant associations. Winners of Silver Plates, to be given at the National Restaurant Association convention at Chicago in May, are eligible for the Golden Plate.

Campus activities

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| <p>Friday
Brazos Valley Development Council, revenue sharing workshop, 2 p.m., Medallion Room, Bryan Utilities Building
Aggie Volleyball Club, all-star match, \$1.50 for adults, 50 for students, 7:30 p.m., DeWare Field House
Aggie Cinema, "The Eagle Has Landed," 8 p.m., Rudder Theater and "Mash," midnight, Rudder Auditorium</p> | <p>Feb. 17, 216 MSC
Women's Leadership Workshop, 6:30 to 8 p.m., 145 MSC
Killeen Area Hometown Club, 7:30 p.m., 350 MSC
Dance Arts Society, ballet, 7:30 p.m., 266 G. Rollie White</p> |
| <p>Saturday
Aggie Cinema, "The Eagle Has Landed," 8 p.m., Rudder Theater</p> | <p>Tuesday
College of Business Administration Student Council, 6 p.m., Dean's office, old Engineering Building
Lambda Sigma, 7 p.m., 108 Harrington
Nautical Archeology, 7:30 p.m., 140A MSC
TAMU Collegiate FFA, 7:30 p.m., 209 Harrington
Recreation & Parks Club, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Hall, basement
Phi Delta Gamma, Dr. Nanetter Bruckner, 8 p.m., 205 MSC</p> |
| <p>Sunday
Texas A&M Sports Car Club, autocross, 10 a.m. registration at Zachry parking lot, 1 p.m. timed runs
Chess Committee, 6 p.m., 302 Rudder</p> | |
| <p>Monday
Student "Y", applications available until</p> | |

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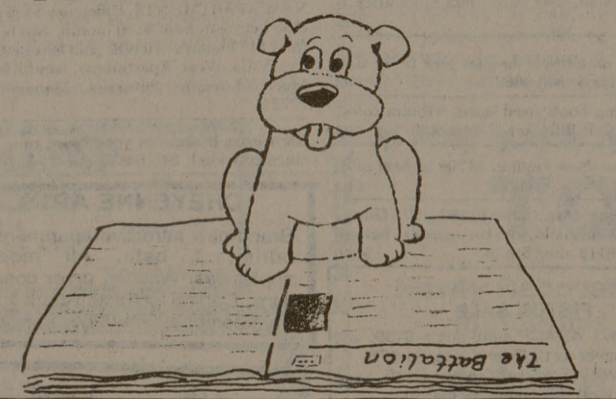
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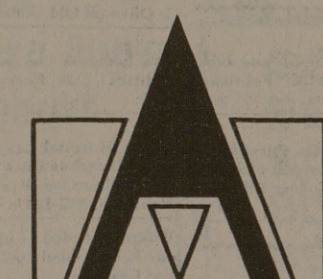
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