

State and Local

Tokyo quartet's plays with skill but fails to captivate listeners

By Brian Frederick
Reviewer

Last night, the Tokyo String Quartet lived up to its billing as one of the world's best string quartets when it performed for a nearly full house in Rudder Auditorium. Though the audience recognized and appreciated the Quartet's virtuosity, the pieces it performed seemed to fail to captivate the listeners.

The evening's performance consisted of string quartets by Schubert, Mozart and Debussy. While the audience seemed moved by Schubert's work, which opened the program, the quartets by Debussy and Mozart did not represent of the composers'

best work, and the audience sensed it.

Regardless of the relative merits of the pieces, the performers played flawlessly. Violinists Peter Oundjian and Kikuei Ikeda, Violist Kazuhide Isomura, and cellist Sadao Harada clearly demonstrated why they are so highly regarded. Their instruments seemed to be extensions of their bodies as they played beautifully together.

The Quartet opened the evening with Schubert's Quartet in B-flat Major. Schubert composed this piece when he was only sixteen. Perhaps his youthfulness is the source of the piece's playful exuberance. The musicians played energetically and

showed from the beginning that they were deeply engaged in the music. The audience rewarded the performance of the piece with enthusiastic applause.

At this point the listeners were expecting better things to come, but the following pieces failed to satisfy this expectation.

While Mozart's Quartet in D minor had some pretty melodies, it was primarily quiet and mournful, lacking the sparkle that characterizes Mozart's best work. Yet the musicians performed it well, skillfully passing the melody from one instrument to the next. Though the audience again responded warmly, it lacked some of its earlier enthu-

siasm, giving the impression that it appreciated the skill with which the music was performed rather than the music itself.

Following the intermission, the quartet performed Debussy's Quartet in G minor. Characterized by tense, unruly passages and tempestuous peaks, it provided many opportunities for the musicians to display their technical prowess. Yet its underlying tension and frustration failed to move the audience.

The applause at the final curtain called the musicians back for three bows. Clearly the Quartet's performance impressed the viewers, but the music failed to penetrate their hearts fully.

Chairman: Panel plans to take care of firms in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The chairman of the new Texas Department of Commerce told top state officials Thursday the department's No. 1 goal is to take care of existing Texas industries — not bring in new ones.

"We believe our first order of business, rather than running around the world trying to attract new industry, is to make our existing industries happy," Edward Vetter said.

Vetter, a former U.S. undersecretary of commerce, said the Texas Department of Commerce cannot allow energy to "go downhill while we're running around attracting high-tech industry."

Gov. Bill Clements, who appointed Vetter, said there already are indications that state efforts, including creation of the department, "are bearing fruit."

Clements, presiding over the first meeting of the Strategic Economic Policy Commission, nominated as commission vice chairman Jim Adams of Dallas, president of the Texas division of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. Adams was elected unanimously.

The commission is charged with developing a long-range plan for diversifying and developing the Texas economy, and must submit its plan to the Legislature before Jan. 1.

"This strategic plan will assess our state's resources, evaluate future economic possibilities and, of course, recommend appropriate actions," Clements said. "This is a big, big job."

But Clements cited several indicators that the Texas economy is regaining momentum: The fourth quarter unemployment rate was down almost 2 percent; employment was up 284,000, compared with 1986; retail sales were up 5.5 percent in the first 10 months of 1987; and the gross state product in the last three months of 1987 was up 2.8 percent over the same period a year ago.

Vetter, on the job since the Department of Commerce started on Sept. 1, said the agency's major objectives are to retain and expand existing industries and businesses, attract new industry, promote tourism and improve business survival rates.

Mattox says second prison can be built

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorney General Jim Mattox on Thursday notified the Texas Public Finance Authority that a proposed second state prison had been properly authorized by Gov. Bill Clements and may be built.

Mattox last week clouded the plan by deciding that the appropriations bill approved by the Legislature in 1987 allowed the issuance of state bonds for the construction of only one prison.

But the state prison board Tuesday turned to a provision in the appropriations bill that allows the transfer of funds if the governor decides there is an "unforeseen emergency." The board asked for the declaration, and Clements responded quickly to clear the way for construction of both 2,250-bed maximum security prisons approved by the board.

First person in U.S. receives new treatment for gallstone

DALLAS (AP) — A South Carolina woman who became the first person in the country to undergo a new procedure that uses shock waves to dissolve gallstones said Thursday she was feeling fine.

At Baylor Medical Center on Wednesday, Melissa Smith of Spartanburg, S.C., received 1,637 shocks delivered to a five-eighth-inch gallstone.

"Until now, surgery had been the primary means of treating gallstones," said Dr. Ron Jones, chief of surgery and one of four doctors who administered the procedure. He said between 250,000 and 500,000 people have surgery for gallstones in the United States each year.

Smith, 37, said becoming the first person to undergo the treatment was not a factor in her decision to have it done.

"I really didn't think of myself as being a pioneer," she said. "I just didn't want to go through an operation."

The new procedure uses a biliary lithotripter, which creates shock waves to fragment the stones into small pieces that can be dissolved in the gallbladder with medication, or pass through the bile duct.

An ultrasound machine is used to locate the stones, which occur primarily because of an imbalance of water, bile salts and cholesterol in the gallbladder.

Gallstones can inflame the gallbladder and cause painfully disabling attacks by blocking the outflow of bile. Obstruction of the bile duct can lead to jaundice.

The treatment is part of a Federal Drug Administration study of more than 200 patients at seven hospitals around the country.

Baylor doctors said they do not know how long the study will take to complete, but the results of Smith's treatment seem to indicate that the procedure will help the estimated 20 million Americans suffering from gallstones.

Doctors said it is difficult to estimate how much the procedure would cost if it is approved by the FDA. Dr. David Vanderpool, a general surgeon, said hospital costs related to the treatment probably would be about \$3,500.

Gore, Jackson campaign in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Sen. Albert Gore Jr. urged Texans to join him in ignoring the Iowa caucuses, and Jesse Jackson called on all presidential candidates to run 50-state campaigns as both Democratic contenders stumped in the state on Thursday.

Gore began the day in Rio Grande City and then spoke to a Texas AFL-CIO convention here before heading for Cotulla. Jackson had a Cap-

itol news conference and also spoke to the AFL-CIO meeting.

A third Democratic contender, Illinois Sen. Paul Simon, canceled his scheduled AFL-CIO speech to stay in Washington for a Senate vote.

Gore turned most of his attention on the Republicans, especially President Reagan, during his AFL-CIO speech, saying the current administration has ignored energy industry problems in Texas.

He recommended that Texans turn a deaf ear on the February caucuses in Iowa and concentrate on the March 8 Super Tuesday primary that includes Texas.

"Don't listen to the commentators about Iowa either," he said. "You know that 97 percent of the people in Iowa do not participate in those caucuses and they don't have a secret ballot."

"Do you think that the great state of Texas has to wait until... Iowa tells you how to vote?"

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