‘Stoki’ Has Bad Audio and Video

By PERTTU VIRTANEN

Of interest to the Rice student this week at the symphony was the presence on stage of Bobby Miller and Gwen Ritter as part of an a cappella chorus performing a composition by Gabrielli, the 17th century organist of San Marco. Mr. Stokowski attempted to simulate acoustical conditions at San Marco cathedral by placing voice ranges at three different stage positions.

Comments

He made a few comments concerning this, concluding with: “San Marco achieved good acoustics accidentally. Here we have bad acoustics scientifically.” So we find that the versatile maestro not only conducts, but also harps a great deal. However, this choir separation, even with the poor auditorium, was most surprisingly effective.

Sandwiched

An organ transcription from Frescobaldi was sandwiched disagreeably between two tuning sessions.

The performance of Francesca Bernasconi, 15 year old Italian pianist, was spectacular. The Menotti concerto which I had never heard before, was somewhat less so.

Easter Music

After intermission the program was devoted to Easter with music from “Parsifal” and “Russian Easter Overture.” Bell tones for Parsifal were especially produced electronically for this performance. Byron Hester of the Rice library staff took a bow for his flute solos.

Visually Speaking

Visually speaking, the Houston Symphony Orchestra is terrible. Admittedly this is an unimportant consideration where music is concerned. But one can take pleasure in watching an orchestra. Stained, dirty, purple stage drops, a mustard-colored stage ceiling, instruments and performers that you cannot see, and witch dresses do not increase this pleasure.