As Guest Conductor

Susskind Leads Symphony

By DOUGLAS MILBURN
Thresher Staff

Poor Mr. Susskind. Visiting us from his Toronto Orchestra for a pair of concerts with Richard Tucker last Monday and Tuesday evening, we fear he showed his provincial background all too clearly.

Used Baton

Not only did he fail to wear those beloved high-topped suede shoes with which we have all become so familiar in the past few seasons since the re-birth of our orchestra, but at the same time, while standing before us in ill-fitting and wrinkled tie and tails, he had the audacity, this the most unforgivable of all, to use (ah, dare I even mention the word) a baton. We are thankful that our Maestro is out of town and was thus spared the sight.

What matters is that Mr. Susskind gave a masterful display of orchestral dynamics in the Oberon Overture and in Strauss’ Don Juan, or that he showed himself likewise the master of our orchestra as accompanist to an egotistical tenor who boasts one of the finest voices to be heard today, or that he gave such an admirably objective reading of the political music of the contemporary Russian composer, Kabalevsky, in the latter’s Second Symphony?

White Mane of Hair

What matters all this without that blur of unmarred white hands and that swish of a white mane of hair to which we are so accustomed as complements to our symphonic music?

Maestro Gone

I must pause now, for my heart lies there in New York, or London, or Vienna, or Capri or wherever the Maestro may be; and I can not further speak till his image comes back to me.