ROMANTIC PROGRAM

Barbirolli Masterful In 2nd Concert

By ROBERT ZELENKA
And STEFAN OFFENBACH

Monday night, under the masterful hand of Sir John Barbirolli, the Houston Symphony gave the second of its series of concerts for the season.

The program was of a somewhat romantic nature, consisting of the Symphony in B flat major, No. 98, by Haydn; the Double Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Orchestra by Brahms; and the Symphony in E flat major, No. 5, by Sibelius. Guest artists were violinist Sidney Harth and cellist Leonard Rose.

THE CONCERT as a whole was well performed; an especially sensitive interpretation of the Sibelius symphony was rendered. The Haydn symphony, though accurately performed, was over-romanticised in places. The orchestra seemed to lose possession of the flow of the work in the final movement. The symphony closed with an unexpected eruption of celeste.

The Brahms concerto, a brilliant and difficult composition, was executed with less skill than is necessary for a complete artistic success. The cellist, Mr. Rose, showed enthusiasm and technique fitting the greatness of the composition.

The violinist, Mr. Harth, played with competence, but he lacked the intensity and fervor demanded by his part. The orchestra fulfilled all required of it and gave strong support to the solo artists.

THE FIFTH Symphony of Sibelius, perhaps the master's greatest symphony, was played by an inspired orchestra. Barbirolli remained in firm command of his musicians throughout the performance and exacted a brilliant, dynamic exposition.

The first and last movements were singularly outstanding. The two great climaxes of the work were well developed through the dramatic use of brasses. The strings, throughout the composition, played with great passion and awareness.

Next week's program will be: Arnold, Overture to "Tam O'Shanter," Hermann, "For the Fallen," Rachmaninoff, Piano Concerto in C minor, No. 2, and Beethoven, Symphony in A major, No. 7. The guest pianist will be Jacques Abram.