Conductor And Orchestra Score Again

BY ROBERT ZELENKA and STEFAN OFFENBACH

Sir John Barbiroli led the Houston Symphony Orchestra in a successful concert, the fourth in its series, last Monday evening.

The program contained Beethoven’s Overture, “Leonore,” Number III; Walton’s Concerto for Violin; and Tchaikowsky’s Symphony Number 6 in B minor, the “Pathétique.”

THE DEVELOPMENT of the emotional structure of the Beethoven overture was complete; the orchestra most excellently achieved the transition from the soft, subtle chords of the early moments to the passionate, moving climax.

The progression of themes, repetition and statement, led into the dramatic ending. An able orchestra, full and resounding, did justice to a magnificent piece of music.

The Walton concerto, written on a commission by Jascha Heifetz, was played with great expression by the violinist Berl Senofsky. The entire concerto moved at a rapid pace; the movements were scored andante, presto capriccioso, and vivace.

MR. SENOFSKY performed with dexterity, fire, and control. His style of playing was equal to the high quality of his musical presentation. He performed a difficult task admirably.

Tchaikowsky’s “Pathétique” symphony was rich, warm, and beautiful as always. The mighty declarations of the first movement, the light current of sadness of the second, the stirring energy of the third, and the final melancholy of the last movement—all were stated by an orchestra which seemed to sense the vital forces of the composition.

NEXT WEEK the Houston Symphony will play Overture to “Donna Diana” by Reznicek; Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra by Haydn; “Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks” by Strauss; and Symphony No. 4 in G major by Dvorak. The soloist for the concert will be oboist Evelyn Rothwell, Lady Barbiroli.