FOR BEETHOVEN'S SEVENTH

Barbirolli Gets Standing Ovation

By ROBERT ZELENKA and STEFAN OFFENBACH

Last Monday the Houston Symphony opened its third concert of the year with the vivid and frenzied overture to “Tam O'Shanter” by Malcolm Arnold. The drunken revel of Tam O'Shanter of the famous poem by Robert Burns provided the subject matter of the overture. The music was well performed.

THE SECOND piece of the concert was the berceuse, “For the Fallen,” by Bernard Herrmann. It was first performed in New York in 1943, and was written to pay tribute to those who had died on foreign battlefields of that war. The music was delicate, well-constructed, and poem-like in character. Barbirolli conducted the orchestra with gentle strength, and he drew forth the intense melodic beauty of Herrmann’s work.

THE SECOND Piano Concerto of Sergi Rachmaninoff was most excellently performed. The playing of the soloist, Jaques Abram, was nearly note perfect. His playing was clean; his rhythm was well-defined and his orchestral support was good.

There was wonderful unity between pianist and orchestra. Sir John made effective use of his orchestral forces, and he kept a rather good balance between orchestra and pianist.

MR. ABRAM, although somewhat literal in his interpretation, allowed the romantic substance of the concerto to be known.

The Seventh Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven was the most outstanding performance the (Continued on Page 12)