Ricther-Haaser Plays Brahms

By ROBERT ZELENKA and STEFAN OFFENBACH

Symphony No. 29 in A major, K.201 by Mozart, “Symphonic Metamorphosis on Themes by Weber” of Hindemith, and the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in B flat major, No. 2 of Brahms will be presented on the thirteenth concert pair of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, February 26 and 27. Hans Rich-ter-Haaser will be guest pianist.

MOZART COMPOSED his 29th symphony at the age of 18 years. The piece was written at Salzburg in 1774, and is the last of four symphonies culminating his early period. The symphony is divided into four movements: Allegro moderato, Andante, Menuetto-Trio, and Allegro con spirito. There is a change of key in the second movement, going from A major to D major.

The symphony begins immediately with a statement of the principal theme; after its development, the second theme is presented. As given by the score notations, the third movement is a minuet, while the fourth movement a single main theme and its repetition.

THE SYMPHONIC Metamorphosis of Hindemith is written in four movements. The Allegro is opened with the call of horns; there is a woodwind solo, and the movement ends with symbols and the blast of brasses. The second movement is Turandot, Scherzo, and opens with flute and chimes. The third movement is Andantino, and the fourth is a march, opened with horns, and dominated throughout by them.

The music of Hindemith is based on the chromatic (twelve tone) scale, and is not atonal.

THE CONCERTO NO. 2 in B flat major for piano and orchestra of Brahms was conceived in 1878 in Italy and finally written in 1881. The concerto has been complimented by many critics; it has been called “the greatest of all piano concertos” and “a work of the amplest proportions and utmost difficulty.”

There are four movements to this work, opposed to the usual three for a concerto. The first movement is Allegro non troppo, and leads into the second Allegro appassionato, a scherzo which acts as transition to the Andante of third movement. The final movement is a lively Allegro grazioso. The most popular portions of the concerto are the scherzo and finale.