

SHOWCASE

Pianist Alan Gampel made his CSO debut Thursday with "The Age of Anxiety" Symphony No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra, inspired by a W.H. Auden poem.



CSO offers all-Bernstein

CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEW

By WYNNE DELACOMA

It wasn't James Levine conducting Mahler as was originally announced for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's first program of 1998. (Levine canceled months ago when a chance to conduct the Three Tenors in Europe came up.)

But Thursday night's all-Bernstein program conducted by William Eddins Thursday night at Symphony Center wasn't a matter of CSO Lite either. The Overture to "Candide" and Three Dance Episodes from "On the Town" are pops concert staples, to be sure. But the symphonic suite from Bernstein's film score for "On the Waterfront" was a CSO premiere well worth hearing. And "The Age of Anxiety" Symphony No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra with pianist Alan Gampel making his CSO debut was a revelation.

Things got off to a raucous start with a frequently raw reading

of the "Candide" Overture. As part of the ongoing fine tuning of Symphony Center's acoustics, workmen came into the hall over the Christmas break and sealed concrete on the roof's underside which had been absorbing some of the CSO's high frequency sound. The added brightness turned "Candide" into a sonic assault.

OVERNIGHT

the "On the Waterfront" suite. Under the baton of one of the CSO's assistant conductors, the dances had a jazzy, sophisticated allure and "On the Waterfront" was full of dramatic tension.

The highlight was "The Age of Anxiety" inspired by a W.H. Auden poem about four lost souls discovering faith. Gampel's playing had a steely center but a touchingly vulnerable exterior. Utterly clear yet delicately shaped, his piano line became a vivid character combining loneliness and valor as it emerged from the austere orchestral texture.

term

service or pay an to a court fund. ed Axton's home found the pot and luding one in the a used since suffering

eborah Hawkins, d guilty on drug given a one-year and fined \$1,000. nclude "Joy to the it for the rock group



Hoyt Axton pleaded guilty to possessing marijuana.

Peak '98
- March 1

ngs and Fun



Have you heard
what's happening,

"HILARIOUS!"
"FUNNY AND"