

Classics concert is a rousing evening

The Grand Rapids Press

The Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra's concert in the Casual Classics series Thursday evening in St. Cecilia's Royce auditorium may well prove to have been one of the most significant events of the musical season.

Youth was evident in another respect with the performance of Shostakovich's Second piano concerto. Alan Gampel, the soloist, who appeared with the orchestra in 1986 playing Chopin's First piano concerto (E minor), looked wonderfully youthful and plays that way. It's a good thing he can; the end movements of this concerto — both of them marked "allegro" — require a pianist who obviously has been lifting weights.

In any case, this is a splendid

GERALD ELLIOTT



MUSIC

concerto, and the second movement, an andante, shows how accomplished a lyricist Shostakovich was. The movement brims with melody and he, like Beethoven, had the ability to spin out a song seemingly almost without end.

I don't remember how Gampel played Chopin, but I'm satisfied that he can go through life playing Shostakovich and bring down the house every time. He did this time,

THE GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, conducted by John Varineau, with Alan Gampel, pianist, guest soloist, in the Hudson's Casual Classics Series in the St. Cecilia Music Society's Royce Auditorium, Thursday evening. To be repeated at 8 p.m. Friday.

THE PROGRAM

Suite in B-flat Major for 13 Wind Instruments, Opus 4 Richard Strauss
Concerto No. 2 in F Major for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 102.. Dimitri Shostakovich

Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Opus 11 Felix Mendelssohn

and there was nothing phony about the audience's reaction. There was nothing phony about Gampel either; he's got enough technique to satisfy even an Arthur Rubinstein.