

## I had no date for the Sofia Philharmonic

by William Holt  
Staff Reporter

I love classical, orchestrated music, and I enjoyed the show, but my date didn't come, so I got to pay more attention to the orchestra below.

On Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. in the Artemus Ham Hall, the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Yordan Dafov, entertained an astute crowd with the premier of Yordan Dafov's "Morning Music," Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 35, and Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 2, Opus 73.

The Sofia Philharmonic is currently recognized as Bulgaria's "symphonic ambassador", one of eastern Europe's major orchestras. Their prize performer is violinist Mincho Minchev, who is

well known in Italy, France, the USSR, the United States, Great Britain, Austria, Turkey, and Canada.

The Concerto for Violin had a less technical effect than pieces that are more mathematical like Bach's music. Within the rhythm, expressions of passion and solace, emphasized mainly by either the violin section or by the solo violinist Mincho Minchev, pacified the audience. Overall, it was a delightful piece mixed with romantic "breathing" of the big orchestra sections and crisp melodies of mainly solo-type instruments.

Symphony No. 2 was also sad in many ways. Brahms is often compared to the god-like Beethoven, and this particular movement is quite valid evidence of the comparison.

I still want to mention the more contemporary piece by Dafov called "Morning Music." I noticed during the intermission that the audience was very pleased with Mr. Dafov's symphonic fantasy, and I felt the same, even though I didn't have a date.

The beginning of the piece was that of violins replicating the sound of chirping birds for about one minute, joined by romantic and melodic murmuring of the cello section, followed by the same type of murmuring by the brass section. The piece is about the joy of the morning, but the uppity part can be best metaphorized as river rapids, space, triumph, breakfast in bed. Dissonance and some atonality were well blended with melodic bliss and beauty.

I guess I don't feel so lonely.

## The Las Vegas Symphony performs It is popular programming for the LV Symphony

Three concerti are featured on the Las Vegas Symphony second performance of the classical series.

Unusual but popular programming is set for the Symphony's second subscription concert Wed., Nov. 28, at 8 p.m. at Artemus Ham Concert Hall. Music Director Virko Baley moved away from normal programming

format (overture, symphony, concerto and has chosen three concerti for the post-Thanksgiving holiday concert. The concert is being partially funded by Dr. Marvin Perer, Irene Perer CPA, PriMerit Bank and the National Endowment of the Arts, a federal agency and the Nevada State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

Subscription tickets are still available for the season on a prorated basis. Single tickets can also be purchased at the Performing Arts Center box office, Bullocks department store, and all Ticketron outlets.

For additional information, call the Symphony office at 739-3420.

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