

Front row at the symphony

by William Holt

COMMENTARY

The Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra, which has just changed its name to Nevada Symphony Orchestra, is doing as well as ever which was proven in their third subscription concert of the year last week. The guest conductor for the concert was George Zack, who has been the Music Director of the Lexington Philharmonic since 1972.

This program included "Violin Concerto in D Major" by Mozart, "Op. 61" by Beethoven, and "Symphony No. 4 in A Major," "Op. 90" by Mendelssohn.

I'm not going to address the Mozart piece because,

after all, Mozart is just a great guy, I think, in every person's mind. Also we hear five hours of Mozart per day on KNPR.

While watching the solo violinist Oleh Krysa charm the strings stemming from his chin for minutes on end, I wanted to say, "Now you've had your turn. Let the rest of the orchestra have a play." Beethoven wrote too many notes for just him.

In its time, this concerto received a lukewarm reception, and local critics described its scheme as being confused. But then, what do they know?

I could say this piece is

"eventful." I felt that the performance was lacking artistic outflow, though.

Mendelssohn's piece had far more activity, and its rhythmic devices involved the audience like no other. The Nevada Symphony Orchestra's rendition lives up to Baily's attempt to be as good as any 30 year-old symphony orchestra.

I prefer the later romantic to Beethoven and Mendelssohn in that era. I feel they know how to slow down and say something musically without having to adhere to the routine of the traditional classical concerto. Of course, one can get carried away with any style, era or genre.

TRIO

from page 11

UNLV, has performed as a member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Houston Symphony and the San Antonio Symphony. The San Antonio Express-News described him as having "authoritative style, superb pitch and robust tone." He has also performed as a soloist or concertmaster with the Symphony of the United Nations and the New York Youth Symphony.

Cellist David Vanderkooi

is an artist-in-residence at UNLV. A former member of the Blair Quartet, he has toured throughout the United States, including repeat performances at New York's Town Hall. As senior artist teacher at Vanderbilt University, he developed one of the most renowned studios in the South.

The concert is free to the public. For more information call 739-3332.

CHEESE

from page 11

Ellisor is also known for creating jingles for such commercials as Frontier Airlines, Remax Realty, Planned Parenthood and Bonne Bell. I was thinking more like subliminal-think-positive tapes. I'm sure synthesized ocean wave sounds

would blend very nicely with her violin.

Her album does try many different approaches to the performance between each song. Many of the changes are nice, and several of the phrases are catchy. However, the intent seems more to be an accessible album that at the same time tries to be serious and different by using the ideas that are based around the actual music.

The next time I listen to Conni Ellisor's *Night At The Museum* will be when I'm serving dinner to my mother's Tupperware clients. I'll be sure to ladle lots of cheese to go with the atmosphere.

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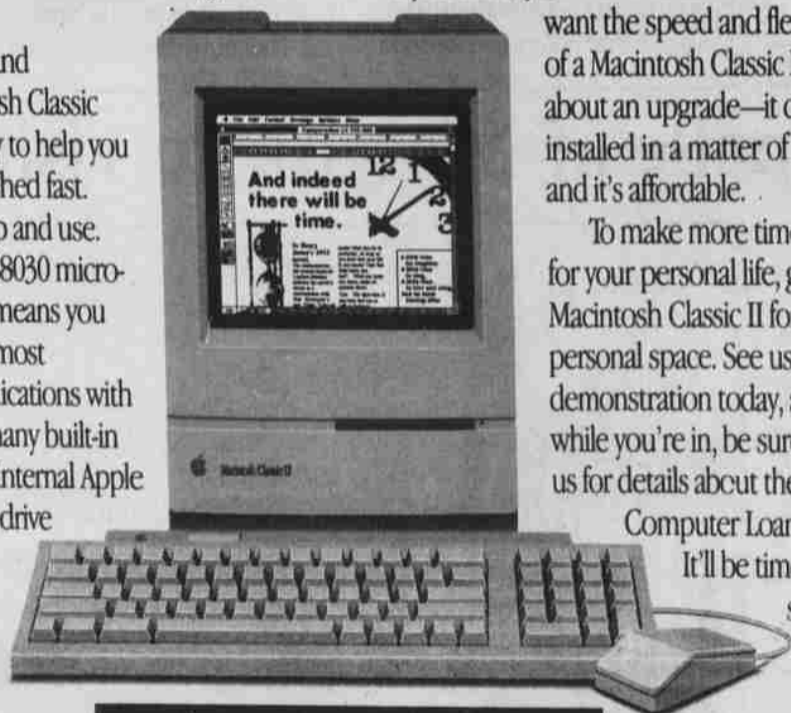
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