

Weiss Kaplan Stumpf Trio

Beethoven Triple Concerto & Gilbertson Premiere

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Review: Symphony's Composer of the Year offers work with plenty of drama

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SIOUX CITY | If composer Michael Gilbertson isn't interested in a symphonic career, he might consider a life in the movies. His Sinfonia, introduced by the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra Saturday night, had echoes of Bernard Herrmann, particularly the work he did with Alfred Hitchcock. Jarring, jazzy and ambitious, it overflowed with drama and plenty of musical challenges. Though based on rhythmic and gestural motives from Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons," it had its own buzz and few of the restful moments found in that iconic piece (which, ironically, also fueled more than one movie).

Named the Sioux City Symphony's Composer of the Year, **Gilbertson was also represented by another premiere, Outliers for Piano Trio and Orchestra, which was created for the Weiss Kaplan Stumpf Trio and the Sioux City musicians.**

More accessible, the piece brought out the lowan in Gilbertson. Unfolding like a day in the state, it had a lush melody and, again, a jazzy quality that gave the trio plenty to savor. Pianist Yael Weiss, in fact, had Gershwin-like moments. She played them to the hilt and enjoyed the writer's passion and force. Outliers is Gilbertson's "Rhapsody in Blue" as seen through the eyes of someone born in the era of "Twin Peaks."

The Weiss Kaplan Stumpf Trio also performed admirably on Beethoven's Triple Concerto in C Major. While the three got plenty of flashy moments, the work showed how far the Sioux City strings section has come under the direction conductor Ryan Haskins. Complementing the three almost flawlessly, the local musicians helped sew a piece that almost blanketed the audience in comforting sounds. While later moments were almost too relentless (particularly when the piano's lower notes sounded off), they revealed the composer's mission, not the conductor's.

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The orchestra also performed Carl Nielsen's Symphony No. 4 to good effect, proving the 99th year of the symphony was a good one, pointing up the accomplishments of the past and hinting at the promise of the future.

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