

Delta County Independent

Delta, CO

February 21, 2001

Debra Reuter-Pivetta earns standing ovation at Delta concert

by Judith Musafia

Debra Reuter-Pivetta, flutist, presented a recital of new and unusual pieces on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the Delta Middle School auditorium under the auspices of the Community Concerts series. From beginning to end, the audience was treated to wonderfully musical phrase making and - on occasion - breathtaking technical skill. Reuter-Pivetta was accompanied adroitly by her husband, Federico Pivetta.

There was a distinctly Latin flavor to the recital. The program was framed, beginning and ending, with the "Tango Fantasia" by Jacob Gade/ Toke Lund Christiansen and the "sonata Latino" by Mike Mower. The performers seem to have a real flair for this music, which calls for a sense of rhythmic timing that is difficult to write, and even more difficult to play.

The "Sonata" by Michael Garson gave Reuter-Pivetta ample opportunity to show us what she can do. She achieved a fine balance between tasteful expression and technical fireworks.

Pivetta expanded on her fine lyrical abilities with a "Nocturne" by Lili Boulanger and "Che gelida manina" which is an aria from Puccini's "La Boheme." The choice of the Boulanger piece was interesting in the sense that here was a composer who died at the age of 25, already renowned in France and probably elsewhere for her compositional genius. This piece was a gem. What might the world have heard from her had she lived?

The first half of the program was rounded out with a sonata by Otar Taktakishvili, a composer from Russian Georgia, and "La Ronda des Lutins" (Dance of the Devils) by Bazzini. The whole thing

was modern without being atonal, and full of interesting challenges to the flutist.

In fact his piece, along with several others on the recital, presented the necessity to play high Cs as though they were the easiest thing in the world, which, (as a flutist myself) I know they are not. Reuter-Pivetta negotiated all the high Cs with aplomb, and even in the course of things threw in some high C#s and (I think) a high D with the same apparent ease.

After intermission, Pivetta played two jazz numbers with an admirable amount of skill and panache, including an arrangement of Gershwin's "Lady be Good." This provided an interesting foil for the rest of the program.

In a recital which presented three composers born after 1950, the most interesting piece on the program was entitled "Lookout!" (by Robert Dick) which presented some alternative techniques of tone production for the unaccompanied performer.

As almost always seems to be the case with Community Concerts presentations, these two engaging artists established an amiable relationship with the audience early on and kept it that way. At the end of the recital, I had a whole new list of works to look for, and the audience gave the artists a standing ovation.