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FODOR

The soloist in the concerto was Eugene Fodor, the Colorado-born violinist who is remembered by some in Washington for having won the National Symphony's Merriwether Post Competition in 1967, and in Moscow for having divided the second prize, the silver medal, in this year's Tchaikovsky contest.

Fodor is a product of some of the most eminent violin teaching in the world, that of Ivan Galamian and Jascha Heifetz. His playing

has immense pizzazz, and many phrases are finished with a sweep of the bow that outdoes most of Fodor's forerunners. He can turn on a lovely, sweet sound in the slow movement and often, in both taxing high registers and the frenzied rush of the speediest passages, he is right on the button in intonation.

But the Moscow judges had both gold and silver medals at their disposal, and their final judgment was to split the silver between Fodor and his nearest rival, giving no first prize. Had they been present last night they would probably have made the same decision. Because in the ultimate, tough tests of the Tchaikovsky, there were the tiny slips in pitch and the lack of real taste in phrasing for which they do not give gold. Fodor's future is bright. He can make it what he decides to.