

FRANKL PÉTER, zongora művész

Exhilarating Beethoven

By Lawrence Sears

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Antal Dorati led the National Symphony Orchestra last night in two exhilarating readings in an all-Beethoven program.

His collaboration with his compatriot, Hungarian pianist Peter Frankl, was filled with careful light touches. The accompaniment glinted with high-lights, illuminating episodes and figurations with sudden nuances. The Scherzo needed only a little more accent in the orchestra's initial statements.

Franckl is a commanding artist, whose playing is filled with the Beethoven style. His grandiose scale work is noble without a hint of ostentation. The veiled tones he summoned during the close of the Largo matched the mood of exaltation with which he began it.

The "Eroica" was Beethoven's favorite sympho-

National Symphony Orchestra, Antal Dorati, conductor. Soloist: Peter Frankl, piano. At the Kennedy Center (Concert Hall). All-Beethoven program: Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37; Symphony No. 3 in E-flat, Op. 55 ("Eroica").

ny. It originally was dedicated to Napoleon, but the enraged composer later changed the title to simply "Sinfonia Eroica" when Napoleon was declared emperor, and never spoke his name for seventeen years. Yet when he heard of his death at St. Helena, his remark was "I have composed the proper music for the catastrophe!"

This same adagio movement, "Marche Funebre," was also the central point of the Dorati reading, with its searing climax, followed by the fragmented melody. Dorati's control, his building of the crescendo with added brass, was a tribute to his continuing work with the orchestra.

And in a city which celebrates Beethoven's birthday so heavily, why do we never hear his unofficial "sixth" piano concerto, the composer's own arrangement of the Violin Concerto in D.

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