

Symphony of sound: Budapest orchestra to feature U.S. pianist

By JESSICA YATES
Staff Writer

The Budapest Symphony Orchestra, featuring the acclaimed American pianist Leonard Pennario as the guest soloist, will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

The concert, a Carolina Union Performing Arts Series presentation, is part of the Budapest Symphony Orchestra's first U.S. tour in 10 years. The orchestra will perform works by Zoltan Kodaly, Aram Khachaturian and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The pieces performed will be

"Dances of Galanta" by Kodaly, three movements from Khachaturian's "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra" and four movements from "Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64" by Tchaikovsky.

The orchestra was founded right after World War II when the Hungarian Radio was reorganizing. The group now has more than 65 recordings to its name. World-famous conductors have frequently highlighted the symphony's performances, including Georg Solti and Leopold Stokowski.

Gyorgy Lehel will be conductor for the Chapel Hill performance. Lehel has been the musical director and chief conductor of the Budapest Symphony Orchestra since 1962. He has an honorary doctoral degree in music from the Chicago Conservatory of Music. Lehel has also won the Liszt Prize twice and has been awarded all of the top Hungarian music awards.

Pennario will be the soloist in Khachaturian's concerto. He is considered to be one of America's most accomplished pianists, as he has

appeared with every major orchestra in the country. He has also toured in Europe and the Far East and has performed on the PBS show "Gala of Stars."

Pennario also has worked with numerous top-notch conductors, including Arthur Fiedler, Robert Shaw and Eugene Ormandy. He has been a guest at various summer festivals too, such as the one at North Carolina's Brevard Music Center.

A professional pianist since the age of 12, Pennario has an extensive discography of more than 20 record-

ings. His latest release is an album of solo piano pieces by George Gershwin, including Gershwin's popular "Song Book." The London Times wrote, "He is an extraordinarily refined artist with fingers as agile and a mind as subtle as those of the very greatest pianist memory can recall."

It is Pennario's connection to Gershwin's music that he is perhaps most recognized for. It was four seasons ago that he performed Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm Variations" on PBS, and two seasons ago that he

performed the same piece plus "Rhapsody in Blue" at a celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of Gershwin's death at the Alice Tully Hall in the Lincoln Center.

Pennario's music career started in 1936 when the soloist scheduled to play with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra canceled. Sir Eugene Goossens recommended Pennario, a 12-year-old at the time, to replace the other pianist. In six days, Pennario learned the material for the symphony and performed it successfully.

The Budapest Symphony Orchestra with Pennario as guest pianist will perform Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Reserved seat tickets are \$16 for the general public and two for \$16 for UNC students. Tickets are available at the Carolina Union Box Office. Call 962-1449 for more information.

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Valentine's food to fit the mood

By LAURA FRANCIS
Staff Writer

Even though couples often go out to eat on a regular date, dining out on Valentine's Day is often a romantic way to enjoy the day. And with the abundance of restaurants in Chapel Hill, there are romantic meals to fit any budget.

The Carolina Coffee Shop, with its candlelight and classical music, provides a tranquil atmosphere for couples. Byron Freeman, the owner of the Carolina Coffee Shop, says, "Many proposals have been made here over the years."

The Italian Aurora Restaurant in Carr Mill Mall is "romantic in itself," says owner Hank Straus. Aurora will be having specials on sparkling wines for Valentine's Day. "The shared dinners for two will provide a food and wine festival," he says.

Couples can order a specially prepared European Valentine's meal at Cracovia Restaurant, according to owner Marek Maciolowski. "The cozy tables for two with white tablecloths and candles provide a romantic, intimate atmosphere," he says.

Slug's at the Pines will give a carnation and sachet to every female guest, says manager Amy Sanders. A specially priced dinner for two will include such delicacies as chateaubriand or a trilogy of lobster, beef and veal medallions, as well as a seafood sampler appetizer and fresh berries or a puff pastry, she says.

"We have one of the best romantic atmospheres in town," Sanders says.

Mariakakis' Restaurant and Bakery always has a special meal on holidays, according to retired owner Tom Mariakakis. For \$6.50, the bakery will make a heart-shaped, yellow, white or chocolate personalized cake for customers who call at least a day before Valentine's Day.

If being completely alone appeals to a couple rather than fighting the crowds in restaurants, having a picnic may be the answer. "A romantic atmosphere is all you need, if you're not over the hill," says Danny Trivette, manager of Harris-Teeter Supermarket on Raleigh Road.

But for those who would like to bring a little food along on the rendezvous, Trivette recommends the store's chicken cordon bleu from the service meat case along with fried mushrooms, a spinach salad, plain cheesecake and white wine.

Stuart Dixon, a stocker at Fowler's Food Store, suggests a "dinner" of strawberries and Dom Perignon to celebrate an ideal Valentine's Day.

Maybe a couple needs something to spark the romance in their relationship. According to legend, certain foods such as oysters may help facilitate romance. "It's the vitamin E in oysters that makes it an aphrodisiac," Trivette says.

Sheryl Moody, cashier at Kroger Store, says "Supposedly asparagus is a bit of an aphrodisiac, too."

And Gene Palmer, co-owner of Daly and Forbes catering service, offers an unusual combination: "Olives and absinthe, which I believe is banned in the United States, have something inside them that make you passionate."

Even without the aphrodisiacs, students have their own ideas of the perfect Valentine's Day meal. "I'd like a well-prepared meal with a good wine and a sinful chocolate dessert," says sophomore Laura Blackstone from Washington, N.C.

John Ouderkirk, a junior from Atlanta, says his ideal Valentine's Day would be sharing a light meal with his Valentine so they could enjoy drinking a bottle of wine and "cuddling" afterwards.

David Spickard, a freshman from Nashville, Tenn., says an outdoor picnic would provide a romantic setting. But if it's too cold, he'd like to eat in a quiet, candlelit place with some of his "funny" friends serving the meal.

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