

# Madame Lili Kraus Receives Standing Ovation At Benefit Recital

By F. P. Hulme

The world-famous pianist Lili Kraus gave her annual "Music in the Mountains" Benefit Recital in the Burnsville First Baptist Church July 19, and the echoes of the applause from the packed-to-overflowing audience must still be swirling around the town square. When she entered, radiant in gold brocade, she was given a standing ovation of several minutes, and at the conclusion of the concert an even longer ovation paid tribute to this remarkable woman.

Mme. Kraus had as assisting artists two members of the Celo Chamber Players, Frank Ell, clarinet, and Joel Lipton, viola, in Mozart's Trio in E flat Major, the only clarinet trio from that composer's hands. After a subtle and sophisticated reading that still retained the freshness and wonder of the music, it was astonishing to hear Mme. Kraus say there had been only one rehearsal of the trio.

Both Ell, who is the music director of the Celo group, and Lipton were in excellent form and confirmed again the strong impression they have made in previous appearances in the area. The emotional exchange and the tonal balance among the players was chamber-music playing of an extraordinary quality, and most admirable was Mme. Kraus's refusal to overpower her colleagues, as too often happens in piano trios. Her disciplined brilliance gave dynamic impulse to the more lyric contributions of the clarinet and the viola.

For her solo recital Mme. Kraus began with Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, which she prefaced with fascinating and helpful comments, as she did with all the numbers of the evening. It is no exaggeration to say that the great pianist

talks almost as well as she plays, and from her lifelong intimacy with these classics she helped her listeners achieve special insights. Her playing of the Bach item was powerful and free, revealing the intricate architecture of the chromatic modulations and building steadily to a shattering climax.

Six German Dances of Mozart were, in contrast, lightly appealing, superbly performed but not intrinsically as compelling as the remainder of the program.

Two Brahms compositions, Rhapsodie in G Minor (Opus 79) and Intermezzo in B flat Minor (Opus 117), gave Mme. Kraus scope for poignant and passionate interpretation. She expressed the noble yearning of this romantic music without in the least sentimentalizing it, with prismatic tonal effects and cunningly shaped phrases possible only to a mistress of her art.

For the concluding Schubert Wanderer Fantasia, Mme. Kraus amused her listeners by recalling that the composer, in despair at his inability to perform the work as he thought it should be done, once cried out, "Only the Devil can play this piece!" With a charming smile she asked, "Well, have I committed myself?"

On the contrary, she played it like an angel—or perhaps several angels, since this "ali-but-unplayable" masterpiece, better known in Liszt's version with orchestral accompaniment, challenged the ultimate in her technical and emotional reserves, and she reached heroic heights in her triumph. Even so, the most affecting moments, for at least one listener, came in the meditative "slow movement," where the performer seemed almost to disappear, leaving

only the creator and his anguished question about hope.

The Wanderer is a tremendous experience for pianist and

audience, and Mme. Kraus was wise not to close the evening without some lessening of the musical tension. Her single

encore, the celebrated (notorious?) Sonatina in C Major of Mozart, was beautifully ordered, radiant and racing, an

affirmation of the life-principle which permeates everything this great and generous pianist plays.

A reception, with refreshments by Women's Club of Burnsville, gave Mme. Kraus's admirers opportunity to express

more personally the gratitude and appreciation which had begun this memorable evening with that standing ovation.

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## REPORT FROM U.S. Senator JESSE HELMS

WASHINGTON—There is a deluge of unwise and dangerous legislation flooding onto the Senate calendar these days. And, as is always the case, this kind of legislation is given the most appealing titles, so as to deceive the American people into believing that the Federal Government is going to solve all the problems of mankind.

I suggest that citizens keep their hands on their wallets when politicians promise to "solve" problems. It's these very politicians who caused the problems in the first place.

**INFLATION**—The awesome inflation the country is now experiencing is the result of political tampering with America's economic principles. I have discussed in these reports many times the enormous Federal debt that the Congress has run up over a period of nearly 40 years. Within the next twelve months, the Federal debt will be in excess of a half-trillion dollars!

That's because the politicians have been buying votes with promises of something-for-nothing from the Federal treasury; they have passed laws to pay able-bodied people not to work; they have rushed through bad legislation to shackle the free enterprise system; they have dished out countless billions of dollars in so-called "foreign aid" to countries that couldn't care less whether America survives.

**AHEAD**—In the months and years ahead, unless the trend changes, we can expect socialized medicine, and the nationalization of a number of our businesses and industries. If this sounds like a dire forecast, just wait around and see what happens.

As this is written, it appears likely that the Congress will pass a so-called "Legal Services Corporation Act." This legislation has been widely and falsely advertised by the major news media as a worthy piece of legislation. In fact, however, I predict that it will lead to the constant harassment of countless thousands of citizens by lawyers drawing Federal checks.

Several of us have been fighting this legislation, but we've just about reached the end of the road—unless something miraculous happens. There are just too many liberals, and too few conservatives, to hold back this unwise legislation much longer.

**CPA**—By the time this report is published, the Senate probably will be engaged in debate on another measure which also has an appealing title—but which is exceedingly dangerous.

It is called the "Consumer Protection Agency Act." My colleague, Senator Ervin, has properly described this legislation as an attempt to "coronate a Caesar within the Federal bureaucracy."

In a formal report to the Senate, Senator Ervin and three other Senators commented: "With deference to Shakespeare, we say to other supporters of consumer rights that our support is no less than theirs; that we rise against this Caesar, not because we desire consumer protection less, but because we desire good government more."

These four Senators are members of the Senate's Committee on Government Operations, which cleared the bill for consideration by the full Senate. There are, at most, about 20 others of us who will join these four Senators in fighting this legislation on the Floor of the Senate. A filibuster is likely.

Ralph Nader has already attacked every Senator who has spoken out against this bill. And, needless to say, most of the major news media will publicize and endorse Nader's reckless statements. But this is, nevertheless, very bad legislation, which the people will eventually learn to their sorrow. By that time, it will be too late. They will be in the chains of yet another Federal bureaucracy.