

In 17th Season

Lansdowne Symphony Displays Solid Style

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The Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Henri Elkan, is not only one of the most enterprising of Delaware Valley's community orchestras, in the catholicity of its programs, but it is one of the finest.

While some amateur symphonies use professionals in key spots, the Lansdowne Symphony manages entirely with its own members and does very well, thank you.

In Weber, Beethoven, Mozart, Poulenc and Wagner, at the Lansdowne-Aldan High School on Sunday afternoon, the orchestra once more displayed professional ability in its high level of technique in all choirs, its willing and able response to the wishes of the conductor, its unity of ensemble and sonority of tone.

The piano soloist was Norman Shetler, a true artist, who divides his residency between Greenhill Farms and Vienna (between concert tours).

At this concert Shetler was heard in two diverse works — Mozart's Concerto No. 23 in A and the local premiere of Poulenc's "Aubade." The Mozart was a model of style—in tone, technique and interpretation.

"Aubade," a ballet scored for piano and 18 instruments, is surely one of the most beautiful works by the French composer who died a year ago at the age of 63.

In length and difficulty it is practically a piano concerto. The supporting instrumentation includes pairs of woodwinds, horns, violas, cellos, basses, trumpet and tympani. This often lends a symphonic richness and provides for great variety in scoring.

The Lansdowners opened with a cleanly-played "Freischütz" Overture of Weber and continued with Beethoven's high-spirited, zestful Symphony No. 8 in F. The entirely enjoyable program ended with three excerpts from Act 3 of "Die Meistersinger."