

Home Folks I, Postoperative:

Program: Thanks particularly to John Dildine, Pete Kuykendall and Chuck Perdue, members of the committee, and to the performers themselves, the program was selected and presented pretty much as planned. However, the selection and presentation were made in a specific context, and this contextual relationship for the most part seemed lost on the audience. The program as presented was a mishmash lacking order and ~~presentational~~ direction.

Physical Arrangements(etc.):

Getting There, Part I -- One block east of and parallel to (not intersecting) 15th Street is 14th Street. Fuller Street is one block south of and parallel to Harvard Street. In other words, the directions as given were open to misinterpretation.

Getting There, Part II -- Walking up from the parking lot, the first door one meets is the main entrance to the hall, padlocked from the inside (but inexplicably opened for a short time to admit people behind and out of sight of the admissions table). The next door, some 20 feet north, a little less promising, was also padlocked from the inside. There was no entrance from there north to Harvard Street. Halfway to 16th Street from 15th, there was an unlocked door. This led to a narrow hallway -- and fortunately the building attendant -- and one retraced his steps until again he was at the main entrance of the hall -- but inside. Throughout the concert, there was frequent knocking at the padlocked doors.

Getting There, Part III -- There was only one admissions table, no signs, and a hallway that was too narrow.

Getting Started -- The program, announced for 8:30, started at 8:50. There was at least one complaint about the late start. One man said he had declined a dinner invitation to be on time for the concert.

Lighting -- The stage was dark, the audience well lighted. Though the audience at times may have been more interesting than the stage, continuance of such lighting at concerts could lead to complications, since the performers on the stage are usually being paid.

Acoustics -- Herb Hamburger may have been right when he said the hall's acoustics were poor.

Recommendations: In the future, concerts as special events should be mc'ed by a person who has this as his only job, as far as the event is concerned. There should be a printed program, preferably listing titles with some history. These seem desirable for correct interpretation and audience appreciation. Signs on doors and on tables; one table for members, one for non-members; maps in the newsletter...these are advisable. Except for one item, the other difficulties can probably be corrected after talking with Pierce Hall management. The one item not so readily corrected is our habit of starting late. Especially if we hope to appeal to a wider audience, this habit should be broken. As far as the program is concerned, in general it should be completely set two months prior to the concert date since all else other than securing the hall depends on the program.

Respectfully submitted
George Simpson, chairman
October 6, 1965