

CONCERT REVIEW

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JSO

All-American Program

Jerusalem Theater

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In its season-opening concert conducted by Leon Botstein, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra presented a selection from its programs scheduled for performances abroad, prior to a tour to the US.

Instead of offering a glimpse of what the East has to offer, the JSO seems to think American audiences expect the Israeli orchestra to regale them with American music - as if their own local orchestras didn't provide enough.

Admittedly, though, all of the program's works were extremely deserving ones.

Hungarian-born American Miklos Rozsa's Violin Concerto features all that it takes to impress an audience: highly demanding virtuosity in its first movement, appealing melodrama in the second one and effective dramatic expression in its conclusion. The audience was indeed duly impressed, particularly due to American violinist Robert McDuffie's brilliant rendition.

Big Ben Variations by Ernst Toch, who is of Viennese descent, derived its inspiration from a stopover in London on Toch's way to becoming an American. It is a musical hide-and-seek, making the well-known Westminster chimes alternately identifiable and unidentifiable, until finally an enchanting tune emerges from the preceding tumult.

In Copland's Symphony No. 3, the concert's impressive conclusion, the orchestra displayed a full, rich, well consolidated sound and infectious energy.

Credit: URY EPPSTEIN

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