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Those Romantic Germans a success

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Rio Hondo Symphony's Those Romantic Germans was a success this past Sunday. The second of three free shows featured the guest conducting of Hector Salazar a music veteran Salazar has been the Assistant Conductor of the Chamber Orchestra of the South Bay and Carson/Dominguez Hills Symphony. With 25 musicals and operettas to his repertoire Salazar is no stranger to the beauty of the symphony.

Salazar is one of four guest conductors who will be replacing the now retired Wayne Reinecke for the 2008-2009 concert audience members will be given the opportunity to help in the decision of who will eventually replace Reinecke.

While not as heavily packed for such a beautiful evening of classical music the Vic Lopez Auditorium in downtown Whittier was nonetheless filled with a happy and excited audience.

The concert began with the performance of Johannes Brahms Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80. **Beautifully conducted** the violins were a standout in piece performed expertly. With only a slight lull the piece grew to an immense crescendo the sharp cries of the violins and the crashing of cymbals culminating into a beautiful harmony.

The second performance of the afternoon's symphony was Richard Wagner's masterpiece Wesendonck Lieder featuring poems by Mathilde Wesendonck. The performance featured the soprano Erin Wood who sang the text of Wagner's piece. On first glance one would never assume the powerhouse voice housed within the soprano. Wood expertly achieved a pitch that helped bring to the forefront of the piece the romance of Wagner's Lieder.

Immediately following the 12 minute intermission was Wagner's Dich teure Halle from Tannhauser "You Beloved Hall". Wood continued her beautiful work as a soprano in Wagner's tragic opera of love. The piece however is about the reunion of two lovers like the Lieder Woods beautiful only helps to emphasis the work of the violin that emphasis the sadness of the piece only to be lifted up and reminded of the beauty of two lovers. Here **Salazar's conducting is on par showing his range and expertise.**

The final performance of the night was Symphony No. 3 in g minor written by Carl Reinecke. Symphony No. 3 consists of four movements the Allegro, Andante sostenuto, Scherzo, and the finale Maestoso.

Each movement builds and sustains a beauty representative of love. One that grows and dies and others that live on subtly quietly and unrequited each movement contains an emphasis from either a wind solo or a horn or strings arrangement. **Salazar's conducting pulls together the piece and is a beautiful conclusion to an amazing afternoon.**

The symphonies next concert "An American Rhapsody" will be conducted by Kimo Furumoto and will take place on March 1, 2009. For more information call (562) 698 - 8626 or visit the Rio Hondo Symphony's website at www.riohondosymphony.org.

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