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Orientation

Out of Class I: Russian Concert

By Richie Heinlein

On Sunday November 21, I went to Indiana University Southeast to watch a Russian Concert because my friend's brother was performing in it. It was right after the Chancel Choir I sing with got done with the anthem we did. I walked out with a couple of friends and headed out. What we didn't know was that his car was going to lose its power and have to be pulled over. We happened to be near a McDonald's so we pulled over and ate. We called for our other people in the party that were going to the concert too. They came pretty quick and we were on our way. There were no more problems. Good! We didn't have time for more of them. We got to where we were going right on time, if not about 5 minutes late.

Soon, the concert started. There was an assortment of music. First, there was a piece of music by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. According to the concert's program, the music told the story of a king's rise to power, marriage feast then lamentable end. Next up, was a piece called "Piano Concerto No. 2 Op. 18 movements I-III. The composer's name is Sergei Rachmaninoff. We had intermission after that. After intermission, the last piece was played. Its name is Symphony No. 5 in E-minor by Tchaikovsky.

The first piece was done quite impressively with the strings and brass. The second piece and its movements were done beautifully by the main conductor in the program. She is definitely a professional. She in some areas was put in very difficult

positions with hand movements, meaning that she had to cross her hands to play the piece correctly. The third one was beautiful but kind of slow in parts. Of course all of them were slow in their areas. This one almost put me to sleep because of the speed and me being already up for about 30 hours.

After the concert, we all went to our host's house for his surprise birthday party. It worked! He had no clue. We had supper. It was a nice social time. I got to meet a few people that I hope will one day be good friends of mine.

This broadened my idea of culture musically and got me out of a comfortable rut, which is very good. I recommend this kind of concert to anyone for a broader view of what a college program can do, for this was done at a university by their faculty and students and by the regular public. So, try this out, but just don't try to be awake about 30 hours when attending.