NJRO - Report of December 19, 2010

Something new and different this evening: Patricia Genser is a composer friend of Laura Paparatto's and we got to audition her new work "Concerning Hobbitts." And, while we awaited Pat's arrival we kept with the season and played Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8, by Archangelo Corelli, more commonly known as the Christmas Concerto. Maestro Culbertson commented on its inscription "Fatto per la note di Natale" (made for the night of Christmas). Corelli finished this commissioned work on Christmas Eve, hence its name.

We continued with a reading of Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 2, D minor, Op. 40, with our soloist Evan Schwartzman. Well, wiki says it is performed frequently, but it was new for me. And while I thought it was melodiously Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann criticized it as not giving the soloist much to do. I took the picture below during the contemplative second movement (while we had 22 measures rest). I was on viola this evening and filled in on bassoon and horn cues, when I felt the urge to steal identities.

And here is Pat Genser with her new work. *Concerning Hobbits* consisted of three movements: *The Prancing Pony, The Old Forest* and *The Shire*. I wondered how Pat would make Hobbits exciting (ok, they eat 6 times a day). I was swept away by hymn-like rich harmonies of the last movement "The Shire." I think we all enjoyed it immensely. Let's do this again!

Ah, yes, my attendance report. Celli: Jan Zebovitz and Innes Borstel. Viola: Y.T. Violins I: Herb Steiner, Jennifer Seligman. Violins II: Luba Schnabel, Noriko Kubo (I found your gloves!) Woodwinds (flutes only): Laura Paparatto, Kent Weisert. Bass: Bob Whitely, and Steve Culbertson and Evan Schwartzman guided us as always.

Sometimes is nice to just sit and listen (but not to lose count of the measures rest). The 2nd movement of the Mendelssohn afforded us that opportunity.

Maestro Culbertson, composer Patricia Genser, Laura Paparatto and tonight's viola section.

Read all about Hobbits