

Sax players pleasing

By IFAN PAYNE
Music Critic

I have been having a lot of luck lately with saxophone quartets. Thursday evening's woodwind recital in All Faiths contained a pair of quartets of more than passing interest that formed musical bookends to the rest of the program.

The first work was the attractive *Saxophone Symphonette* by David Bennett that was well played by Janelle Soltis, Teddi Blackim, Judy Haansen and Michelle Tedrow. These four players formed a cohesive and well-balanced group and all four played with a well-controlled and attractive tone. They really listened and responded to each other and the dynamics of the performance were a pleasure to hear.

There followed three works for a variety of woodwind ensembles, with the *Finale — Allegro* from Anton Reicha's undemanding yet pretty *Quintet, Op.88, No.2* taken for an en-

joyable outing by Elizabeth Wolf, Susan Schoneweis, Darrin George, Nancy Calhoun and Dave McConnell.

The formal part of the concert closed with the second of the matched pair of saxophone works. This was a performance of six of the *Seven Saxophonian Folk Dances* by Paul Harvey. The music is new to me, which has been my loss, since it is lively and colorful and was given a characterful performance by the impressive quartet of Candi Massimino, Steve Funk, Ben Rohrer and Jim Sharp.

That was not quite all, though. There was a coda to the concert in the form of an event by the Advanced Brass Class, none of whom, in the immortal words of Bernard Buster, "were playing the instruments that they were born with." The performance was a musical *spas* worthy of the great and greatly lamented Gerard Hoffnung.

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