

Mosca performance is brilliant

A Review

By SUSAN LUND

Ludovica Mosca, the Italian pianist from Barcelona, Spain, performed a brilliant recital at the United Methodist Church in Montrose, Nov. 2. The pianist, whose appearance was jointly sponsored by the Montrose Music Teachers' Association and the Montrose Arts Council, played to an appreciative audience of 250 that included a large number of students.

Ms. Mosca began her program with J. S. Bach's "Preludium in F Major," a piece which dates back to the early 1700s. This performance affected an immediate bonding between pianist and audience and set the tone for the entire evening. She followed this short work with the "Capriccio in B-Flat Major, On The Departure Of A Beloved Brother" by the same composer. This joyous five-movement composition is Bach's only example of programmatic keyboard music.

The second half of the recital consisted of music from the middle 1890s to the middle 1900s beginning with Johannes Brahms' four pieces from his Op. 118. The first work in this set, "Intermezzo in A Minor," was full of sweep and power.

The "Intermezzo in A Major" which followed was slower and more melodious. The third work, "Ballade in G Minor," was rhythmic and fiery and contained a legato, duet-like middle section. The "Intermezzo in E-Flat Minor," which concluded the set,

displayed colorful effects with its canonic structure.

Ms. Mosca played these with thoughtful sensitivity that was built upon fine technical and dramatic strength.

The audience was then treated to the Spanish Composer, Enrique Granados' "La Maja el Ruisenor" (The Lady and the Nightingale). This lesser known work was impressive and engagingly delicate, bringing with it a flair from Spain.

Ms. Mosca finished her program with another Spanish composer, Joaquin Turina, playing four of his "Gypsy Dances." These dances demonstrated contrasting moods, pastoral airs and religious themes. Especially notable was the final

"Seguiriya" of "Joyful Dance," rich with rhythmic velocity and lush harmonies.

After extended applause and a standing ovation, Ms. Mosca generously offered two encores. The first was a charming and embellished "Allegro" from a sonata by Joseph Haydn. The second, "Children's Piece" by Chick Corea, was a driving and somewhat dissonant, modern composition which brought a fitting conclusion to a stylistically varied and beautifully flawless recital.

The community of Montrose is indeed fortunate to have organizations such as the Montrose Music Teachers' Association and the Montrose Arts Council, who bring us such renowned artists as Ludovica Mosca.