

Berlin Event First of a Series

Fine Arts Festival A Resounding Success

By LYNNE WOGAN, Staff Writer

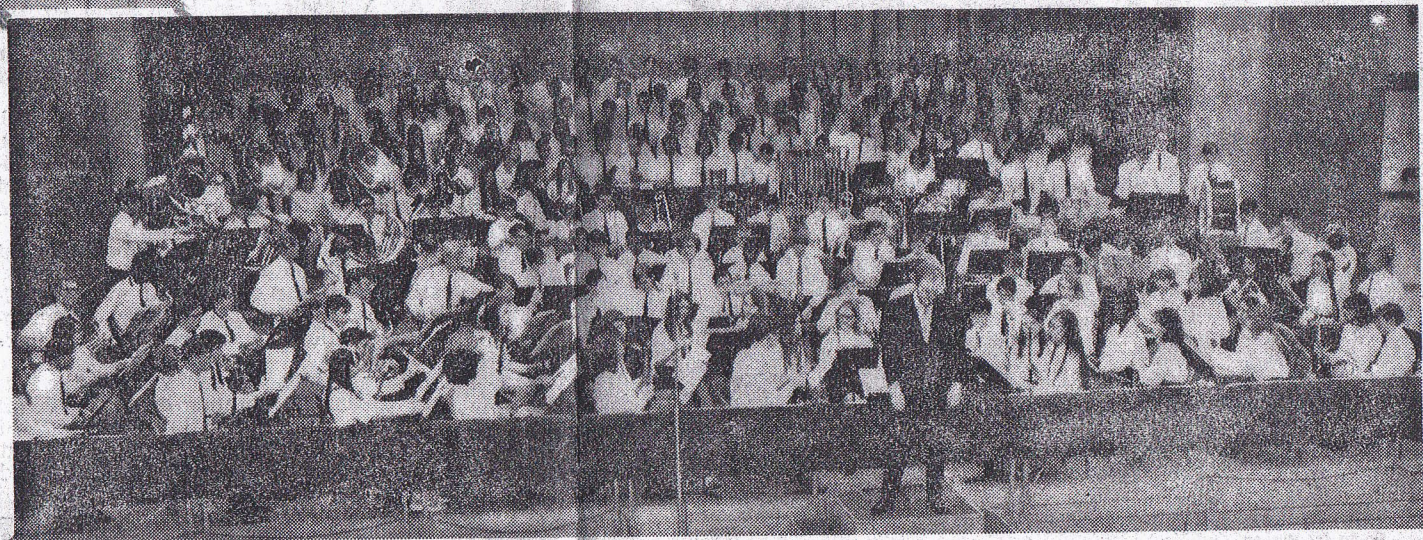
THEY MADE such beautiful music together they could scarcely believe their own ears.

They were students from five high school bands and choruses taking part in the Fine Arts Festival in Berlin—first of a series of such events scheduled throughout USDESEA this Spring. Additional festivals will take place in Vinzenza, Italy; Rota, Spain, and Upper Heyford, England.

Selections for the varied, fast-paced, 5-minute-long program in Berlin ranged from "In Tears of Grief" from St. Matthew Passion to Tchaikowsky's difficult "Marche Slave."

ORGANIZING the efforts of North Germany District Schools — Bremerhaven, Bittburg, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and Berlin—was Wayne Fenstermacher, Berlin's school music director. His words of advice to other festival planners: "Start early, don't try it without command and parental support."

Fenstermacher said the students, who arrived in Berlin by duty train, stayed in the homes of American families. They rehearsed about five hours a day for



Choruses and bands made up, together, of 300 students from five high schools in Germany, joined efforts for some numbers, presented others

three days, and received some individualized instruction from members of Berlin's 298th Army Band.

For many of the students, the special instructions were a most helpful part of the program. Ray White, a coronet player from Wiesbaden High School, said: "I really picked up some tips from the individual sessions. Those guys know so much more than we do it was great having them work with us. I started out laying the coronet for fun, but because of the music experiences I've had in school, have become much more serious about it."

And Sharon Dietz, also of Wiesbaden High School, echoed the feelings of some students when she said "taking part in the festival and playing under the pressure we've had here has helped me to gain a lot of self-confidence. And it was good to know that if I made a mistake wouldn't be so obvious. It made me more daring with my trumpet — more sure of myself."

Also during their stay in Berlin the students attended an exchange concert given by the German students of the Rostke-Huelshoff Schule and a banquet and dance at the school.

ACCORDING to Fenstermacher some of the biggest advantages of the festival is that it allows the students to play sections which would be impossible for smaller bands, gives them the experience of responding to techniques of different music directors (band and chorus directors from each of the participating schools directed portions of the program) and gives them a chance for some individualized instruction by musicians experienced on the particular instrument they play.

Other music directors participating included Gilbert Mitchell of Wiesbaden, Robert Ried of Frankfurt, Virginia Johnson of Frankfurt and Wanda Larsen Bitburg.

Receiving a standing ovation for his performance on the timpani was Sam Cuskey of Berlin High School. Thomas Hardaway of Frankfurt High School played the piano for the entire performance.



Drummer from Berlin punctuates a number with help from man with the cymbals.

Photos by **ROLAND R. ANCTIL**



Instruction on individual instruments was a high point of the festival for many of the students.

separately.