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CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY GIVES FINE CONCERT By John Fetler Music Critic

What a pleasure to hear the members of the Colorado Springs Chamber Music Society display their musical knowledge and expertise. They gave a concert Wednesday night in the assembly theater of the First Methodist Church, featuring works by the Gabriellis, Richard Strauss, Stravinsky, Dvorak and Rolf Johnson.

The group consists mostly of wind instruments and gives the opportunity to some of the members of the military music establishments to perform "classical" and modern repertoire. This they do with finesse, providing a very pleasing ensemble sound. It also includes cello and string bass.

Conductor of this group is Michael Gibson, otherwise a trombonist, who studied conducting in the Midwest. He conducts with great care, reminding us somewhat of Beecham's approach. We hope his work with this group will serve as a foundation for the development of his musical conceptions.

It is to the credit of this group that it does not hesitate to launch into modern works. Stravinsky's Symphonies of Wind Instruments rarely heard could still be placed in that classification. The other modern work was a "Movement for Brass Quartet" by Rolf Johnson of the NORAD Band, whose thumbnail biographical sketch was written in the kind of humorous manner which is a welcome addition to program notes. As for Rolf Johnson's music, it is in a solidly modern constructionist vein guaranteed to wake up any audience, in which he displays considerable compositional skill of a high and serious order.

The Gabrielli numbers provided the bright brass colors for the concert. The Strauss and Dvorak works provided the pleasing romantic aspects, all works played with precision and with thought for the tonal colors of the instruments.

The Colorado Springs Chamber Music Society activities are an excellent contribution to the community's musical culture and the only wish is that this music can be given a wider audience.