

COMMENTS ON MUSICAL COMPOSITION CANDIDATES

First of all, I was most pleased to see this particular group of scores, because before there has been such a great deal of material which clearly showed that the authors didn't know how to go about doing things. These showed talent, and also they gave evidence that the composers are making constructive efforts to do something worthwhile.

Of the two, I would prefer Fax above Fields. My reasons are that he (Fax) has good technical equipment and that he knows counterpoint and orchestration. His orchestral works, obviously written while under a teacher, don't show a great deal of melodic inventiveness, and yet it was apparent from some of his other works (evidently written some years before) that he actually has a melodic sense. It is, of course, possible for a person's melodic sense to be hampered while he is studying and concentrating on other, more technical aspects of music. In my opinion, Fax has talent and is worthy of help.

This should not be construed as being derogatory to Fields, for the latter has ability, but I do not see in his works the same qualities I see in those of Fax.

I find Fields using a certain intellectual, cacophonous style of writing at times. Fax also utilizes the same style, but when Fax uses it, he makes it serve his own ends. In other words, he has a reason for doing whatever he does.

I am glad to see that these men are working and studying, for that's a commendable thing - in such contrast to the people who hoped to win success without expending any effort whatsoever.