



Sharon Roffman: At 17, she plays with poise, confidence, and passion.

## Belated bravos for a teen violinist

### CONCERT REVIEW

**THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** With Zdenek Macal, conductor, Sharon Roffman, violin soloist. At the John Harms Center in Englewood on Wednesday.

By **RUTH BONAPACE**

Special to The Record

Tenafly teenager Sharon Roffman, radiant in her debut as a violin soloist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, captured hearts and moistened at least a few eyes among the hometown audience that braved still-treachorous weather conditions Wednesday to hear her play at the John Harms Center.

# THE Lively ARTS

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The Englewood concert was the fourth in a series of five NJSO performances for the 17-year-old winner of the 1995 Young Artists Auditions, a statewide competition sponsored by the symphony orchestra.

Although Roffman appeared a bit shy and awkward when conductor Zdenek Macal congratulated her onstage, her performance of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto was anything but reticent. She played with poise, confidence, and passion — as if this were the concert of a lifetime.

With a clear, ringing tone, she reined that orchestral warhorse into an exquisite expression of beauty. At the same time, her sure fingers expertly delivered the pyrotechnics needed during some of the dazzlingly fast and furious passages that make this concerto an audience favorite around the world.

Roffman's concert at John Harms had been scheduled for Sunday, but was canceled about two hours before curtain due to the blizzard. Only about half the ticket-holders showed up for the rescheduled concert, but they were uniformly enthusiastic.

Certainly, her family and friends were in the audience, showering her with more bouquets than she could carry, but there were also quite a few listeners who had never heard Roffman before and were eagerly seeking more information about her during intermission.

Topping off the performance, Roffman led the orchestra in a rendition of "Happy Birthday," in honor of Macal's 60th, while executive director Lawrence Tamburri presented the maestro with a giant card about 4 feet long.

The orchestra concluded the concert with Beethoven Symphony No. 6 in F Major, the "Pastoral" symphony.