

Symphony brings audience to its feet

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The audience stood, cheered and gave extended applause to the San Bernardino Symphony Saturday, Oct. 4, at the conclusion of the New World Symphony by Antonin Dvorak.

It was no surprise.

The selection is an audience favorite, and the musicians under the baton of Maestro Frank Fetta performed it to perfection.

“I don’t know if that was the best it has ever been done,” said one concertgoer, “but it was the best I have ever heard.”

That sentiment seemed to be universal among the almost capacity audience, which included 100 children sponsored by a local contributor.

Symphony President Judith Valles introduced the program, noting that there was a substantial increase in season ticket sales and sponsorships.

Mayor Carey Davis said much of the credit goes to Symphony Executive Director Anne Viricel.

The New World Symphony was written by Dvorak as he visited the country in 1892. It was a turbulent time, but also a time of exploration, westward movement, rapid invention and innovation. It formed the base on which the country was built, and gave us the reputation of being a place where freedom meant the opportunity to succeed, forgetting the old caste system of Europe.

The Symphony includes the wide expanse of the West, the belief and hope of those coming here to seek their freedom and fortune, the thunder of horses and machines, and even a tip of the hat to the Civil War.

It makes one proud to be American and glad that someone was able to capture all of that and more in a single musical composition.

The Saturday program opened with violinist Roberto Cani performing Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto. The audience demanded more, and Cani delivered with a performance that demonstrated his command of the instrument and virtuosity, bowing and plucking at the same time.

He also received a standing ovation.

The San Bernardino Symphony’s next program will be themed “Home for the Holidays,” and will include selections from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker, Handel’s Messiah and a Festival of Carols from Anderson.

Call 381-5388 for reservations or more information.