

# Lyric Trio Makes Debut

The Lyric Trio, an unusual ensemble consisting of violin, piano and narrator, made a vivacious debut last night at Carnegie Recital Hall. Robert Mann, first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet, was heard in the double capacity of composer and executant in his "Three Fairy Tales" (after Hans Christian Andersen). Lucy Rowan was the narrator, and Leonid Hambro the pianist in these works. Also programmed were the Mozart Sonata in B Flat, K. 454, and the Bartok First Sonata, for violin and piano.

Messrs. Mann and Hambro are well known for the quality of their musicianship, and their performance of the Bartok Sonata in every way reaffirmed their places as leaders among young American concert artists. (The Mozart Sonata, although it was given a perceptive and forceful reading, did not benefit from the warming-up process as did later works, and tended occasionally toward tenseness and over-rigorousness of tone.)

Mr. Mann's "Fairy Tales" were a delight. "The Emperor and the Nightingale" and "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" were humane and sweetly touching. "The Princess on the Pea" was high comedy. As accompaniments for the tales, the composer created a series of tiny overtures, postludes, interjections and background passages which operated always on the highest musical plane. In some cases, they gave good contest to the texts by the very strength of their writing. Idiomatically, the music was sophisticated, rather advanced (although not beyond Schonberg or Bartok), and thoroughly distinguished. And it had the ring of authentic inspiration. Mr. Mann should feel proud indeed of these deliciously adult little dramas.

L. T.