

Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas

Miami's Melodic Sound Machine

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY. Music by Charles Wuorinen, Aaron Copland, Beethoven. Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor. Thursday night. Carnegie Hall.

By Peter Goodman

MIAMI, WHERE clashing cultures throw sparks and sun- light breaks off the water in dazzling shards — that's the Miami Charles Wuorinen celebrates in "Bamboula Beach — the Miami Bamboula," the piece he wrote for the opening of the New World Symphony.

The New World Symphony is a "training orchestra" for graduate musicians between the ages of 21 and 30, based (of course) in Miami. The orchestra, now in its third season, made its New York debut Thursday night at Carnegie Hall, conducted by artistic adviser Michael Tilson Thomas, and the concert led off with the Wuorinen.

"Bamboula," the composer says, refers to a Creole dance, and his eight-minute work sparkles with lighthearted energy. The musical fabric is broken into thousands of fragments — no one instrument appears to get more than a few notes of any individual phrase — but they are ingeniously woven back together by speed and orchestral agility. There is humor (the bass trombone blats along in a continuous Bronx cheer) and generosity and a whole lot of fun.

It seemed a perfect piece for the orchestra, which played with a precision and unanimity of ensemble that many full-fledged professional organizations would envy. Thomas, thin as a praying mantis in his tie and tails,

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