

I'm not sure why Friday's program at the Round Top Festival of three seldom-heard 20th-century works was billed as a Young People's Concert. Except that it featured three young aspiring conductors leading the Texas Chamber Orchestra.

Conductor Kenneth Woods had the toughest draw. Stravinsky's mercurial "Danses Concertantes" rides on small strokes from individuals in this reduced chamber orchestra. The scoring magnifies any missed cues, and there were some rough edges at the beginning. But as the players warmed up, the piece took on the playful brilliance of this overlooked gem.

Edwin Outwater had less to worry about in Bohuslav Martinu's Sinfonietta, "La Jolla," which is built on a massed string sound, seasoned with quirky piano deftly supplied by Neal Kurz. It sounded luscious in the gingerbread opulence of Festival Hall.

Erik Ochsner gave some of the plot to Maurice Maeterlinck's "Pelleas and Melisande" to provide context for the incidental music that Sibelius wrote for it. The orchestra matched his earnestness for a picturesque rendering of this brooding music.

— Jerry Young