

## BANGLADESH



## LETTERS

## DSO represents Detroit well

Last Thursday was my first time in Carnegie Hall. As a classical music lover and two-year resident of Manhattan, that pains me to admit. But the occasion of my first Carnegie Hall experience was a special one; I had come to see a performance by my hometown orchestra and in doing so, see the Detroit Symphony Orchestra make a pitch to all the cynical New Yorkers that amazing music and talented people exist outside their island bubble.

It goes without saying that the Thursday program at Carnegie Hall was a triumph, and while it was surreal to see the DSO on a stage that wasn't Orchestra Hall, it was a joy to see my native city so well represented and to see so many DSO fans in New York. My connection to the DSO stretches back to childhood, but deepened at age 12 when I joined the Civic Sinfonia and eventually moved up to the Civic Orchestra and its Chamber Ensembles. Visits home are still not complete without symphony tickets.

Being a Detroiter in New York can be amusing. The reaction most New Yorkers have when you reveal that you are not, in fact, from Long Island, New Jersey or California is one of honest surprise. And when you say you're from Detroit, the usual follow up is "Oh. [long pause] How's that city doing?"

I don't blame them for this. Manhattanites tend to forget that the world exists north of 96th Street or west of the Newark airport. But after being away from Detroit for two years, I haven't really known how to answer the question, "How's that city doing?" When you see the Internet festooned with headlines like "Dictator Rick Snyder" or articles about how Michigan "czars" are stripping away people's rights, it's easy to be disheartened.



Ricardo Thomas / The Detroit News

The DSO shined last week when it performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

It was, therefore, extremely reassuring to see one of Detroit's great treasures, the DSO, not only intact but resplendent, and it was very comforting to see familiar faces like Hart Hollman in the violas and Paul Wingert, a former instructor of mine, in the cellos. Thursday's concert served as a wake-up for me that perhaps it is time to drop the New York cynicism I've been cultivating. After all, amazing music and talented people exist outside my island bubble. All Detroiters should be proud of their orchestra, their art museum, their riverfront, and so much more.

Maya Shwayder, New York