

Stuart Canin, Violinist, in Debut Recital; Former GI Entertained Big 3 in Berlin

When President Truman, Stalin and Winston Churchill attended a state dinner in Berlin during the Potsdam Conference they were entertained by two young American musicians in uniform. The pianist was Eugene List, then a sergeant. The violinist was an obscure private named Stuart Canin.

New York concert-goers have had many opportunities to hear Mr. List, but late yesterday afternoon they got their first chance to hear the other performer of that occasion, for 21-year-old Mr. Canin made his local debut at Town Hall.

The records do not show that Mr. Stalin or Mr. Churchill were as enthusiastic about the violinist as they were about the pianist, but nevertheless Mr. Truman must have been equally proud of him as a commendable representative of American musical culture. For he is a serious, talented and musicianly young fiddler.

With the exception of the Hindemith Sonata in E (1935), his program did not depart from conventional channels. The three major

works were Beethoven's G major Sonata, Op. 30, No. 3, the Adagio and Fuga from Bach's unaccompanied Sonata in G major and the D minor Weiniawski Concerto. Nor did his playing show signs of marked individuality, but everything was played correctly, with good taste and with evident musical feeling.

The young violinist made no attempt to show off, but his technique was equal to all the demands of the music. The bowing was smooth and steady, the intonation accurate, and the tone, which was pleasant in sound from the start, grew richer in color as the recital progressed. In the sonatas, too, there was careful adjustment to the dynamics of Eugene Helmer, the pianist.

Altogether, a promising beginning, for one does not expect a fully developed and richly mature human being at his age, even if he has played before the Big Three. The predominantly youthful audience was warmly enthusiastic.