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A R I Z O N A  
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## Ruske's presence felt

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It's an age-old question. Whatever is going to become of this younger generation?

Well, one member of the generation, Eric Ruske, is doing quite well, thank you. He has promise and he seems, at least, to have the good sense to make the best use of that promise.

Ruske, a 25-year-old French horn virtuoso, was guest soloist Wednesday as Conductor Harold Weller and the Flagstaff Symphony closed the orchestra's 39th season. The closing night audience saw him in at least two of the musical roles he has managed to undertake in a relatively short lifetime, orchestral musician and soloist.

Ruske joined the orchestra ranks for the evening's closing work, the giant first symphony of Johannes Brahms. He did some solo work quite well in the Brahms, but was matched by the orchestra's concertmaster Louise Scott and its principal oboist Jane Hall in their beautiful solo moments.

Nonetheless, his presence in the horn section was felt in that it challenged the regular members to do better than their best with thoroughly pleasing results in exposed moments for all the brass section.

As guest soloist, out in front of the orchestra, Ruske joined Weller and

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his musicians for the first horn concerto of German romantic composer Richard Strauss — a masterwork of noble stature written when the composer was as teenager, even younger than last night's soloist — and for "Villanelle for Solo Horn and Orchestra," by the 19th Century French master Paul Dukas.

In both pieces, Ruske did things with the French horn most players only dream of doing. He could make the instrument produce beautifully moody and introspective sound, as he did in the early measures of the Dukas; he could make it bright and cheerful as it frequently is in the Strauss.

Most of all, he could make it big, bold and brassy — as the French horn should be — as he did frequently in dazzling passages of both the Strauss and Dukas.

And, so, where does all this leave us in a discussion of the future of the younger generation.

Ruske is obviously a bright, talented, sexy young man and knows it. He enjoys the limelight as only talented youth can and, by admission, has gone out of the usual mold of his kind to seek it.