

Sylvan Side

from *Capriccio Radio*

By Lawrence Rinkel

Directed by Tony Tambasco

April 2023

BACCA Arts Center, Lindenhurst, NY

SYLVAN

Whenever I listen to anything classical in the car, I've formed some unconscious habits. On the highway, crank it up. On a road with lights, turn it lower and always stop behind the adjacent car to prevent being noticed. In slow traffic turn it off. This once I neglected my own rule, with the result you heard. Lest you think I'm blaming this other driver, he has my sympathy. He thinks I'm a snob and he resents it. But how can I tell this man that Brahms and Beethoven are his birthright too? Or how do I explain that we who love this music feel at once the guardians of a precious treasure and a minority under attack? Every night sitting in my broadcast booth it's questions like these that trouble me, as I wonder whom the music I play is reaching, or if it's reaching anyone at all.