



Simon Polezhayev and Jeremy Kempton.

## Simon Polezhayev Performs with Island Chamber Symphony

On Sunday, March 20 Simon Polezhayev was the featured soloist with the Island Chamber Symphony. The double bass is rarely thought of as a solo instrument, but Simon's rendering of Domenico Dragonetti's very demanding concerto was masterful. He possesses a warm melodious quality in his playing and handled the concerto's difficult technical passages and high harmonics with seeming ease. This is all the more impressive when one learns that he is just 16 and has been playing the bass for just over two years. Only six months after he began studying the instrument, he won a scholarship to attend the prestigious Preparatory Division of the Juilliard School of Music in Manhattan. He now studies with Eugene Levinson, principal bass of the New York Philharmonic.

Simon was born in Moscow, Russia in 1989. His parents brought the whole fami-

ly across the Iron Curtain the next year to Europe and then to Long Island where they have made a home. Simon began his musical studies on the piano at the age of three. He has had the advantage of growing up in a very musical family. His parents, Vladimir and Yelena are both accomplished pianists and his brother Anton plays violin in the New York Philharmonic.

The Island Chamber Symphony under the baton of Music Director Jeremy Kempton will be giving two additional concerts this spring. On April 3, at 2 p.m., ICS will feature a gifted young oboist, Shane Helfner at Farmingdale Public Library. On Sunday, April 17 at 3 p.m. Jeremy Kempton will be the soloist in Guilman's *Morceau Symphonique* for Trombone and Orchestra at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Glen Cove. Call 759-3716 for further information.