Classical trio attracts new fans

By Philip Meeker
Staff Writer

Elderly women pivoted in their seats and old men gaped trance-like Thursday evening at the impassioned Mendelsson finale of the Claremont Trio.

The excitement from the crowd, which included people of all ages, continued into the lobby outside Fowler Hall in Stewart Center.

After exiting the hall, Gordon Claxton, a senior in the College of Technology, rushed to buy the Trio's new CD, and waited, almost dancing, for the musicians to appear so he could ask for autographs.

He had witnessed his first classical ensemble, said Claxton.

"I'm glad to have started with them because they set the bar pretty high," he said.

From others in the crowd, phrases like "thirty grand well spent" could be heard.

This was the amount given by a local anonymous benefactor to have groups like the trio come to Purdue every other year, said Todd Wetzel, director of Purdue Convocations. It helped start the Kalichstein Laredo Robinson International Trio Award, which the Claremont women were first to win.

The trio had a great stay in the area, said violinist Emily Bruskin, who looked refreshed after a two-hour performance during which she maintained a ferocious concentration.

Each of the musicians during the show were at times so involved in their play, they would grind the heels of their stilettos into the ground.