Message from the Chairman...

The National Orchestral Association celebrated the life and career of Maestro Leon Barzin, our founding conductor, at the NOA's Fall Gala. Many admirers from around the world were present to honor the late Maestro. The National Orchestral Association is pleased to be carrying forth the Maestro's mission of supporting aspiring young musicians and developing new audiences for music through educational outreach programs. We are most grateful for the overwhelming expression of support from our patrons whose support made the September Benefit one of the most successful in the National Orchestral Association's history.

—Fran Kennedy

NOA Spring Gala to Honor John J. Gilbert

On May 10th, the National Orchestral Association will hold a gala black-tie dinner at New York's exclusive Lotos Club honoring John J. Gilbert. The Board of the National Orchestral Association is pleased to be honoring the many accomplishments of Mr. Gilbert, who is President of the Ruffy Corporation, a diversified real estate and investment firm established in 1923. Mr. Gilbert is also widely known in the corporate world as an early champion of stockholder rights. He and his late brother Lewis D. Gilbert were instrumental in winning rights for individual shareholders to submit resolutions and attend annual meetings. Their work on behalf of shareholders was affirmed in the famous Transamerica Decision (1946), which upheld Justice Biggs' controversial ruling giving rights to individual shareholders to submit resolutions for consideration at annual corporate meetings. Mr. Gilbert is also widely known for his philanthropy, and serves as President of the Lewis D. and John J. Gilbert Fund for Corporate Democracy, and is the Founding Trustee of the Lewis D. and John J. Gilbert Foundation. Mr. Gilbert is proud to be a supporter of The GRADS Foundation, Inc., which grants rewards and assistance to deserving students from economically depressed communities. Mr. Gilbert's other recent philanthropic efforts include sponsoring programs that bring the joy of clowns to underprivileged children and the elderly.

The National Orchestral Association is delighted that Mr. Gilbert's daughter, Mrs. Margot Gilbert Frank, will be acting as dinner chairman for the May 10th gala. Mrs. Frank is a noted educator and philanthropist who is well known for her charitable endeavors on behalf of numerous organizations in the Denver area. She is currently a member of the committee which will be raising over $62 million to rebuild the University of Denver's Music and Theatre School. Mrs. Frank has been active in organizations devoted to the prevention of child abuse, and has been instrumental in raising money for the National Jewish Research Center, and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. We are also pleased that Mr. Allan Frank, a distinguished attorney and philanthropist, will be joining his wife as a dinner co-chairman.

For more information concerning the dinner, please contact the National Orchestral Association's office in New York by telephone (212-350-4676) or via fax (212-350-1440).

The Leon Barzin Conducting Scholarship

In honor of the NOA's founding conductor, the late Maestro Leon Barzin, the National Orchestral Association will be supporting a young student with a conducting scholarship at The Lake Luzerne Music Camp in the Adirondacks. Maestro Barzin was a frequent visitor to the camp, and was one of its longtime principal advisors. On September 20th, the Lake Luzerne Music Camp will celebrate its twentieth anniversary with a special concert in New York City performed by musicians who are alumni of the Camp. The NOA is delighted to be working with Bert Phillips, Executive Director of the Camp, in support of this effort. The Lake Luzerne Music Camp has been an outstanding resource for young people, and enjoys a reputation as one of the country's leading music camps. The NOA would like to congratulate all those associated with the Camp for enriching the lives of so many young musicians over the years.
Lark Quartet Performs at Robert Redford’s Christmas Concert

The Lark Quartet was the first musical group outside of Utah to be invited to perform at Robert Redford’s Christmas Concert held at his private concert hall at Sundance. The Lark's performance was an overwhelming success. During the reception, Mr. Redford met with members of the Lark, and complimented them on their performance and superior technique. The National Orchestral Association is proud to have been a supporter of this and other events at Sundance, and to have had an opportunity to introduce other NOA-sponsored artists to the local communities in Utah. The National Orchestral Association is grateful to the entire Sundance organization, and to Mr. Robert Redford in particular, for offering NOA-sponsored artists an opportunity to perform in Sundance’s magnificent setting. Mr. Redford’s commitments to the environment and to the arts serves as an example to all Americans.

In addition to the Christmas concert, The Lark Quartet visited Sundance and Park City last fall for a series of concerts, master classes and outreach in the communities’ local schools. The Lark is the only group to have appeared every season at the request of the Park City Performing Arts Foundation. In addition to the outreach program, The Lark conducted a day of master classes at Utah Valley State College for students from the college and another nearby university, following a concert the previous night for the Directors, Trustees and Department Heads of the college.

By popular demand, The Lark will be returning this Spring to give special performances and lectures in the Orem Public schools, and concerts at Sundance and Utah Valley State College.

SONYC’s Outreach Program for Queens, New York Schools

A quartet made up of players from the String Orchestra of New York City (“SONYC”), was invited to conduct an educational outreach program in the Queens, New York Public School District. We are grateful to David Levitman, a Director of The NOA, and former Principal in the New York City School System, for making this possible. Mr. Levitman and SONYC's Monica Bauchwitz, are working on developing a continuing program for the Queens School District.