

# Notes

the newsletter of

## The National Orchestral Association

### SPRING IS HERE!

Springtime is a time for renewal, reminding us that opportunities abound even when times are challenging. The current economic environment is making it very difficult for many arts organizations, but it is also providing an opportunity for them to re-evaluate how best to utilize their resources.

It was during the Great Depression that the National Orchestral Association gained prominence by offering opportunities for orchestral training and low-priced public concerts. The NOA discovered early on that small organizations can make a big difference. In challenging economic times, organizations like the NOA have reinvigorated themselves by drawing on their many devoted and talented volunteers. In the current environment, the NOA is not only providing financial support, but has made itself available to assist organizations with advice and counsel on how to enhance the effectiveness of their programs. Exploring ways for an organization to be more efficient can be incredibly beneficial, and like springtime, provide a renewed sense of purpose and focus.

At this time of year, when flowers bloom and hope abounds, we are reminded that springtime is a source of strength and an inspiration for renewal. Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, the NOA is able to continually renew its mission of support for American classical musicians, composers and conductors, and we deeply appreciate all their efforts.

*Matthew J. Trachtenberg*  
President

### FROM THE NOA ARCHIVE



Springtime radio broadcast, "Behind the Scenes in Music," with Barzin and the NOA orchestra

### ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTOR TRAINING RESIDENCY AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

The National Orchestral Association will be providing support for an orchestral conducting training residency at Florida State University's College of Music. The NOA is pleased to be partnering with the College of Music at FSU to support this residency, tentatively scheduled for April 12-18, 2010. The Association is delighted to announce that Dr. Jacques Voois will be serving as guest clinician for on-site conducting workshops, featuring FSU graduate conductors, and will also be featured as a guest conductor for one of the College of Music's orchestral concerts. The FSU residency is part of an ongoing NOA initiative aimed at fostering the training and development of the next generation of conductors. Association director Grace Vance described the conductor training residency as a valuable resource for helping conductors refine their technique. Ms.



Dr. Jacques Voois and Maestro Leon Barzin

Vance noted the benefits for aspiring conductors in having exposure to the Barzin technique. She indicated that it is particularly valuable when it is being taught by former Barzin protégés like Dr. Voois.

In the 1970s, Dr. Voois studied for more than five years with Maestro Leon Barzin, the founding musical director and conductor of the NOA. Since then, Dr. Voois has talked, written and lectured about Barzin's conducting techniques to aspiring conductors throughout the United States. Dr. Voois is a retired professor from West Chester University School of Music, and served as Conductor of the West Chester University Orchestra from 1969 to 1987. From 1980 to 1990, Dr. Voois served as Music Director of the Lansdowne Symphony and has conducted concerts in Pennsylvania as well as the United Nations. Dr. Voois is a founding member of the Conductors Guild, and has been a guest conductor for numerous academic festivals and regional orchestras. He has written and lectured extensively on the subject of performing arts medicine, and his work about Maestro Leon Barzin was the basis for the documentary, *Leon Barzin and the National Orchestral Association*.

Last October, Dr. Voois served as one of the conference leaders for a highly successful conducting workshop held at West Chester University College of Visual and Performing Arts. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Conductors Guild and the National Orchestral Association, and provided invaluable instruction in understanding and mastering the Barzin technique. The NOA would like to thank Joanne and Howard Hassler for their gift of general support, which has helped to make the Florida State University conducting residency initiative possible.

# STECHEK AND HOROWITZ FOUNDATION FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday evening May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation will host a Fiftieth Anniversary gala benefit evening at the famed University Club in New York City. The evening will honor the distinguished founding directors, Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz. The National Orchestral Association congratulates Messrs. Stecher and Horowitz on their extraordinary careers. They began as a world-renowned piano duo, and for 39 years ran the Stecher and Horowitz School of the Arts in Cedarhurst, New York. They began the Foundation in order to incubate talent in the world of classical music. The Stecher and Horowitz Foundation's programs have been invaluable in discovering and presenting remarkable young pianists. The Foundation's flagship program, the New York Piano Competition, has provided opportunities and mentoring for countless young pianists. NOA Director David Levitman praised the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation and noted that the virtuosity and versatility of Messrs. Stecher and Horowitz have earned them an unrivaled reputation in the music world. Mr. Levitman cited their work in mentoring talented pianists ages 14-22, which is playing an important role in encouraging young artists. Mr. Levitman noted that the gala evening should be a very exciting one that will feature a tribute to Messrs. Stecher and Horowitz, as well as guest appearances presenting prize-winners of the New York Piano Competition. To obtain tickets for this exciting gala black-tie evening, or for more information about the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation, please visit the Foundation's website at [www.stecherandhorowitz.org](http://www.stecherandhorowitz.org), or call 212-581-8380.



Norman Horowitz, WQXR radio broadcaster  
Robert Sherman, and Melvin Stecher

## NEWS FROM UTAH

NOA Directors Ralph Gates and Judy Jackson reported that the National Orchestral Association's continuing support is making a difference in Utah. The National Orchestral Association is pleased to continue its assistance to the Park City Performing Arts Foundation, an organization that is responsible for a range of performances at the Eccles Center, Park City's premier performing venue. The National Orchestral Association is also pleased to be a supporter of a musical scholarship at Utah Valley State College in memory of the NOA's late Chairman, Frances J. Kennedy. The scholarship contribution is not only a fitting tribute to our late Chairman, but embodies Fran Kennedy's passion for mentoring young students and providing financial assistance.

We are very grateful to directors Jackson and Gates for identifying ways in which the NOA can contribute to the cultural life in Utah.

## ARS ANTIQUA CONTINUES INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

The NOA is pleased to be continuing its support for a unique American music organization devoted to performances of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century music on historical instruments. Ars Antiqua enjoys a devoted following of musical enthusiasts who are attracted to the organization's innovative programming and outstanding musical performances. Each performance incorporates a unifying theme that is designed to provide a cohesive experience incorporating both music and historical perspective. The organization's April 4<sup>th</sup> performance entitled "Gypsies" was centered around folk traditions and the gypsy style. As baroque composers traveled throughout Europe, they became intrigued by unwritten folk music traditions, especially those of gypsy musicians. Much of this music has long been unknown or lost, and has only recently been rediscovered from Russian, Hungarian and Czechoslovakia sources. In its materials describing the performance, Ars Antiqua noted that painters such as Caravaggio and Halls were also inspired by this culture, with gypsies becoming provocative subjects in some of their canvases.

Citing music that is full of passion, harmonic richness and rhythmic vitality, the gypsy style had an influence on many concert musicians, particularly Telemann and Vivaldi. The organization noted that in many respects, their select repertoire of concertos and sonatas pays homage to a genre, which at the time must have seemed exotic and dangerous. NOA director Reka Souwapawong noted that these outstanding musical performances are complemented by guest speakers, illustrated program books, and a post-concert gathering like the buffet of European cheese and gypsy wine which concluded the April 4<sup>th</sup> concert. Ms. Souwapawong stated that these are "wonderful evenings of discovery" in which the audiences experience music-making of the highest caliber, combined with an energy and enthusiasm for the historical context in which such music was created." At these evenings, one is enveloped in an atmosphere that respects the historical context of the musical works being offered. For more information about this exciting organization, please visit their website [www.ars-antiqua.org](http://www.ars-antiqua.org).