

Notes

the newsletter of

The National Orchestral Association

Volume 11

August 2004

In Memoriam



Frances J. Kennedy

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our beloved Chairman, Frances J. Kennedy.

For many years, Fran Kennedy has used this section of the newsletter to inspire us with her unique perspective on American classical music. In this column, she reminded us over and over about the importance of staying the course despite adversity. Her indefatigable support for American classical musicians and composers was an inspiration to all who knew her. Her extraordinary spirit and continual optimism were evident in every endeavor. Following the attacks of 9/11, Fran led a triumphant gala dinner in New York to celebrate our nation and its rich cultural heritage. Even when facing a devastating illness, Fran was a beacon of hope and good cheer. She believed in the goodness of people, and worked tirelessly to help others achieve their dreams. Her vision, her wisdom and her love of music will continue to inspire us all. We extend our deepest sympathies to her longtime companion and NOA patron, Ralph Gates, and her beloved children, James C. Kennedy, Patricia J. Begley, Frances R. Kennedy-Graff, Ann S. Kennedy and Martha C. Kennedy.

BOARD ESTABLISHES FUND HONORING FRAN KENNEDY

To honor the memory of Frances J. Kennedy, the Board of Directors of the National Orchestral Association has created a fund bearing her name. NOA Board member, Reka Souwapawong, said that "the Fund will be a lasting tribute to the extraordinary work of our Chairman, Frances Kennedy." The fund will provide general operating support for the Association and its many initiatives. For many years, Fran worked tirelessly to reinforce the financial structure of the Association. During her tenure, the Association's administrative and artistic activities were streamlined, unnecessary overhead was eliminated, and its goals were broadened to encompass a wide

range of artistic initiatives. As a result of Fran's fundraising efforts, the National Orchestral Association has thrived during a time when other similar sized classical music organizations have failed. Inquiries about the Fran Kennedy Fund have been coming in from all over the world. Board member David Levitman remarked that "were it not for Fran's fundraising acumen, the Association would never have survived." Many of Fran's friends have asked how they might honor her memory and support her work. To this end, the Frances J. Kennedy Fund has been established, not only to help perpetuate her memory, but to provide continuing support for the NOA.

TRIBUTES FROM AROUND THE WORLD HONORING NOA CHAIRMAN FRANCES KENNEDY

Tributes from around the world have been pouring in to honor National Orchestral Association Chairman Frances J. Kennedy. Musicians, conductors, composers, and friends have sent their condolences on the loss of this great American hero. NOA President Matt Trachtenberg said that "the tributes from around the world underscore the love and respect that Fran enjoyed in the musical community. Fran was a kind and wonderful human being, full of life, full of joy, and an inspiration to all of us. We love her very much, and will cherish her memory and work hard to continue her work." Fran was also a devoted mother who adored her children, and had a marvelous enthusiasm for living. She was an accomplished athlete, who was as comfortable on the golf course, ski slopes or hiking mountain

trails, as she was chairing Board meetings. Fran was unique in the musical world, and her grandfather Arthur Judson, who was a world famous impresario, would have been very proud indeed of the contribution she has made to American classical music. "She is a treasure who will be greatly missed," said a supporter from abroad...a sentiment in which we all concur. Fran graced our lives, and we are all better for having known her.

FALL EVENT HONORING FRAN KENNEDY

An evening tribute to Frances Kennedy is being planned for a major New York club this fall. Details will be posted shortly on the National Orchestral Association's website (www.nationalorchestral.org), and priority invitations will be sent to all those contributing to the Frances J. Kennedy Fund.

BARZIN DOCUMENTARY TO DEBUT IN FALL

A documentary entitled *Leon Barzin and the National Orchestral Association* is currently in post-production and will be making its debut this fall. The nearly two hour documentary chronicles the history of the National Orchestral Association, and the life of its founding conductor, Maestro Leon Barzin. It features recollections by students, colleagues and friends of Maestro Barzin, as well as many photos and audio recordings from the archives of the National Orchestral Association. DVDs of the documentary will be made available later this fall to various media outlets and Association contributors. The documentary is dedicated to NOA patron, **Eleanor Close Barzin**.

NOA CONTINUES SUPPORT OF CONCERTS IN THE HEIGHTS

Monica Bauchwitz, Artistic Director of Concerts in the Heights, recently received news that the National Orchestral Association would be continuing its support with a special grant. Concerts in the Heights has gained a reputation as a unique organization, bringing live classical music performances to senior citizens and children in upper Manhattan. The concerts serve school districts that receive little exposure to fine arts and cultural events, and the feedback from area teachers has been overwhelmingly positive.

An interview with Ms. Bauchwitz is featured in the new documentary, *Leon Barzin and the National Orchestral Association*. She recalls her experiences with Maestro Barzin, who inspired her and so many others to bring classical music to students in a welcoming environment. Concerts in the Heights exemplifies many of the techniques that Maestro Barzin used to engage students in appreciating classical music, and classical musicians.

IN MEMORIAM DAVID P. CLOSE

David P. Close passed away on July 4, 2004 at his beloved farm in Amissville, Virginia. Mr. Close was a highly respected attorney and partner of the Washington, D.C. law firm of Dahlgren & Close. He was also instrumental in a wide range of charitable endeavors, including International Humanities, Inc., and the Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation, among others. He was also a devoted supporter of the National Orchestral Association, and is featured in the new documentary about Leon Barzin and the National Orchestral Association. His friendship, wise counsel and unwavering support will be missed by all of those associated with the NOA. We extend our deepest sympathy to his children, Barbara, Katharine, Louise, and Peter.



David P. Close, Esq.

CONDUCTING WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS BARZIN TECHNIQUE

With the help of the NOA, The Conductors Guild sponsored a workshop at the Cleveland Institute of Music on March 14-17, 2004, featuring the conducting principles of Maestro Leon Barzin. Instructors for these sessions were Maestro Jacques Voois, Maestra Patricia Handy, and Maestro Carl Topilow. The sessions were recorded for the NOA archive, and will be edited for transcription to DVD later this year. The NOA is pleased to have been able to document the Barzin technique being taught by some of Maestro Barzin's protégés.

PARK CITY, UTAH PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE SUPPORT

The National Orchestral Association is deeply grateful to its many friends in Utah, who have contributed tirelessly to the success of its many programs. Frances Kennedy often spoke about the incredible generosity and support from the NOA's many friends in Utah. In honor of Fran Kennedy, a longtime Park City resident, the Board of the National Orchestral Association will be making a contribution to the Park City Performing Arts Foundation in Fran's memory. The Park City Performing Arts Foundation, through its performing venue, the Eccles Center, has presented an extraordinary array of talent, and continues to be an important cultural resource for the area. Terri Orr, Executive Director of the Foundation, is a longtime friend of the NOA, and a dynamo for cultural advocacy. The NOA salutes her and the Foundation for its leadership role in Utah.

STECHER AND HOROWITZ FOUNDATION GRANT

The National Orchestral Association has given a grant to the Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz Foundation in support of their work on behalf of aspiring young classical musicians. Their flagship program is the New York Piano Competition, wherein aspiring young musicians are helped to achieve their goals through mentoring, career guidance, artistic development and performance opportunities.

MUSIC OF THE SPHERES

The NOA will be continuing its assistance to this fine organization that promotes and develops new audiences for classical music through innovative chamber music concerts and lectures that illuminate music's historical, philosophical, and scientific foundations.