

Notes

the newsletter of

The National Orchestral Association

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE NOA

The National Orchestral Association would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors and volunteers for making 2006 one of the Association's best years ever. Our beloved late Chairman, Frances Kennedy, taught all of us the importance of taking the time to say thank you. At this time of year, when we give thanks for so many things, all of us associated with the NOA want to acknowledge the hard work of our tireless volunteers and the extraordinary generosity of our many supporters from around the country. These individuals are the lifeblood of the NOA, and we are fortunate indeed to have so many people who care about perpetuating the NOA's mission. Since 1930, the NOA has carried on a proud tradition of supporting America's classical musicians, composers and conductors, and is continually finding new ways to nurture American talent and bring classical music to wider audiences throughout the country.

Our 2005-2006 fiscal year ending June 30th was one of the most successful in our organization's recent history. We were pleased to be able to honor our good friend, Burton R. Rubin, at the Association's Fall 2005 Gala Dinner, and to receive so many gifts from longtime NOA supporters. The NOA is currently planning a Gala 2007 fundraiser, which will honor both a musician and a prominent member of the business community.

The National Orchestral Association is proud of its many initiatives, including its conducting seminars. The NOA is also pleased to support a number of fine organizations that are at the forefront of American classical music. The NOA is happy to be able to provide assistance for organizations in New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Utah. Information about the NOA and these organizations can be found on the Association's website at www.nationalorchestral.org. We encourage you to visit the website, which contains historical information about the NOA, as well as summaries of our current initiatives and organizations receiving NOA support.

BARZIN CONDUCTING PRINCIPLES TO BE FEATURED IN UPCOMING SEMINAR

The National Orchestral Association is pleased to sponsor seminars for conducting students featuring the principles of NOA founding conductor, Maestro Leon Barzin. These seminars provide invaluable assistance to students interested in understanding and mastering the Barzin technique, and feature conductors who studied under Maestro Barzin.

In 2004, the NOA sponsored a highly successful four-day conductor training workshop presented in association with the Conductors Guild at the Cleveland Institute of Music. The seminars were co-sponsored by the Arthur Judson Foundation and International Humanities. This advanced workshop was hosted by Maestro Carl Topilow (Director of Orchestral Programs at the Cleveland Institute of Music), and included instruction by other Barzin protégés Maestra Patricia Handy (Associate Conductor of the Greenwich Symphony) and Maestro Jacques Voois (a founding member of the Conductors Guild, and noted conductor, educator and author).

The National Orchestral Association is currently planning a 2007 seminar that will include physical exercises and instructor demonstrations, as well as photographs and film clips from Maestro Barzin's rehearsals. The documentary entitled *Leon Barzin and the National Orchestral Association* features rare footage of two Barzin rehearsals, which are a model of the Barzin style, and give a sense of what Maestro Voois has described as Maestro Barzin's "Three-Dimensional Centerpoint Conducting." Maestro Barzin's method has had a profound impact on his students and the world of music, and the NOA is proud to continue Barzin's extraordinary legacy through these seminars.



UTAH INITIATIVES

The National Orchestral Association was pleased to renew its support for two organizations that have worked tirelessly to enrich the cultural life in Utah. At the recommendation of Association Directors Ralph Gates and Judy Jackson, the NOA continued its support for the Park City Performing Arts Foundation and the Utah Valley State College music program. The Park City Performing Arts Foundation has been responsible for an extraordinary range of performances at the Eccles Center, Park City's premier performing venue. The Foundation's Executive Director, Teri Orr, has been instrumental in leading the Foundation's many performing arts projects. At the Utah Valley State College, the NOA has contributed support to a music scholarship. The contribution was made in memory of the NOA's late Chairman, Frances J. Kennedy, whose wisdom and energy were an inspiration to all who knew her.

STECHEER & HOROWITZ THIRD NEW YORK PIANO COMPETITION

The National Orchestral Association is proud to support the work of the Stecher & Horowitz Foundation in providing performance experience for young pianists, ages 14-18. This year's piano competition featured twenty-two pianists. The competition was held at the Manhattan School of Music on June 18-23. This extraordinary competition has become an important means of displaying the talents of young pianists from throughout the world. Among the prize winners were 17 year-old Charlie Albright from Centralia, Washington, who won First Prize, and Second Prize winner Larry Weng, age 18, from Needham, Massachusetts. Following the awards ceremony at The Manhattan School of Music, a reception for the winners was held at The Lotus Club. For more information about the New York Piano Competition and future performances by competition winners, please visit www.nypianocomp.org.

NEW YORK MAYOR PRAISES LYRIC

For the opening concert on October 11, New York City Mayor Bloomberg welcomed "everyone to the 9th season of terrific performances" of the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York and praised "this vital institution's many contributions to our City's cultural community." The Mayor noted that "since its founding in 1997, the Lyric has quickly become one of our great City's premier musical performance venues – in which renowned artists and rising young talents can play classics and groundbreaking new pieces for intimate audiences." NOA Director David Levitman has cited this organization's extraordinary commitment to bringing high quality chamber music to local audiences and, like Mayor Bloomberg, praised "the Lyric's ongoing commitment to educating our City's children." The National Orchestral Association is delighted to be providing assistance to this outstanding musical organization. For more information about their current concert season, please visit www.lyricny.org.

BRIGHT LIGHT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bringing classical music performance and instruction to rural communities is always a challenge, but with the Mountain Top Music Center, we have an opportunity to support an organization which is providing a local cultural center for residents of northwestern New Hampshire. NOA Director David Levitman cited Mountain Top's tradition of providing music instruction for up to 300 students and performances throughout the region. For more information, visit www.mountaintopmusic.org.

MUSIC OF THE SPHERES SOCIETY SEASON OF CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

On April 27, 2006, the Music of the Spheres Society gave the final concert of their 2005/2006 season at Christ and St. Stephen's Church in New York City. The concert culminated an extraordinary season of music-making that featured performances by some of the country's leading chamber music artists. The season ended with a performance of the rarely-heard full-length version of the Tchaikovsky Piano Trio, featuring William Wolfram, piano, Stephanie Chase, violin, and Darrett Adkins, cello. NOA Director David Levitman, who attended the concert, had great praise for the playing, which he characterized as being of the very highest order. At the conclusion of the concert, Artistic Director Stephanie Chase hosted a lively discussion about the compositions, the artistic challenges in playing the works, and the historical background for each piece played.

On October 26th, Music of the Spheres initiated its 2006/2007 season with a chamber music concert called "Sounds Like America!" featuring music by Harbison, Bernstein, Gershwin and Beach, followed by a post-concert talk entitled "The Rhythmic Brain" given by Eric Barnhill, creator of "Cognitive Eurhythmics." The concert featured Stephanie Chase, violin, Harumi Rhodes, violin, Hsin-Yun Huang, viola, Darrett Adkins, cello, Todd Crow, piano, and Jon Manasse, clarinet. For more information about this organization's extraordinary concert series, please visit www.musicofthespheres.org.



Harumi Rhodes and Stephanie Chase

DICAPO OPERA THEATRE 2006-2007 SEASON

The New York based Dicapo Opera Theatre's current season features four new productions: Lehár's *The Merry Widow*, a double bill of Puccini's *Le Villi* and *Messa di Gloria*, the American premiere (revised version) of Picker and Scheer's *Thérèse Raquin*, and Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*. The company also continues its extraordinary programs for children, including Vittorio Gianinni's children's opera, *Beauty & the Beast*. The company recently created a subsidiary that will lease sets and costumes to small opera companies around the country. In addition to providing a new revenue stream, this will allow small companies to present operas with dramatically lower production costs. For more information about the Dicapo Opera, please visit their website at www.dicapo.com.

CONCERTS IN THE HEIGHTS

Concerts in the Heights is continuing its extraordinary programs that bring classical music concerts to students and senior citizens in Upper Manhattan. The company, founded by violinist Monica Bauchwitz, continues its mission of bringing together world-class chamber musicians for inspiring and educational performances in an informal setting.

MUSIC AND DANCE

NOA Director Reka Souwapawong recalled the work of NOA founding conductor Maestro Leon Barzin in finding ways to integrate ballet and classical music. She noted that long before Maestro Barzin became a co-founder of the New York City Ballet, he was using performances of the National Orchestral Association to highlight the importance of dance as a form of artistic expression. Ms. Souwapawong noted an early Barzin program entitled "Adventure in Ballet" which featured a unique integration of dance and music, and marked Barzin's first collaboration with George Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein. The NOA has been a proud supporter of emerging ballet companies, and is pleased to continue its work in discovering new and exciting companies with a distinctly local mission, and commitment to enlarging the audience for both dance and music.