

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 2007 one of the Association's best years ever. 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 2006-2007 fiscal year ending June 30th was one of the most successful in our organization's recent history. We were pleased to partner with some fine organizations that foster the appreciation of classical music by performing for audiences that often do not have access to the larger performing venues. During the coming year, the NOA has many exciting plans, including a conducting seminar which will build on the success of the NOA's previous conducting seminar in Cleveland. In 2008 the NOA will be providing assistance for organizations in Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania 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. To those of you who wish to make year-end contributions, please send them to:

The National Orchestral Association
PO Box 7016
New York, NY 10150-7016

Best wishes for a happy holiday season!

THE CONDUCTORS GUILD AND THE NOA TO SPONSOR BARZIN CONDUCTING SEMINAR

A conducting workshop featuring the techniques of Maestro Barzin will be sponsored by the Conductors Guild and the National Orchestral Association in 2008. The conducting workshop, tentatively scheduled to run from October 19, 2008 through October 22, 2008, will be hosted by West Chester University of Pennsylvania College of Visual and Performing Arts. The National Orchestral Association is delighted that Barzin protégés **Maestro Jacques Voois** and **Maestra Patricia Handy** will be leading the workshop, which will provide invaluable assistance to students interested in understanding and mastering the Barzin technique. Plans for the workshop include morning sessions featuring techniques for conducting small ensembles and chamber music groups. The afternoon sessions



Maestro Jacques Voois

will feature seminars and small group discussions focusing on specific types of repertoire, score study, and the subtle techniques used to more effectively conduct different types of instruments. The evening sessions will focus on orchestral conducting, in which participants will lead the WCU Orchestra.



Maestra Patricia Handy

The workshop will also feature **Maestro Leonard Atherton**, Director of Orchestral Studies at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, as well as faculty members from the School of Music at West Chester University, and prominent musicians from other institutions. The Association's previous conducting workshop held at the Cleveland Institute of Music drew participants from around the country, and it is anticipated that the WCU workshop will be oversubscribed. To accommodate those who will not be able to attend, the WCU workshop will be videotaped, and will be made available at a later date.

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 NOA was also pleased to provide support for a music scholarship at Utah Valley State College in memory of the NOA's late Chairman, **Frances J. Kennedy**. During her long tenure as Chairman, Fran's wisdom and energy were an inspiration to all who knew her, and this support reflects her commitment to providing scholarship assistance to talented young musicians.

**MUSIC OF THE SPHERES SOCIETY
SEASON OF CHAMBER MUSIC
CONCERTS**

On October 25, 2007, the Music of the Spheres Society gave the first concert of its 2007/2008 season at Christ and St. Stephen's Church in New York City. The concert began an extraordinary season of music-making that will feature performances by some of the country's leading chamber music artists. The season began with a performance that featured rarely-heard sonatas for cello and piano composed by Liszt in the last few years of his life, as well as the Poulenc *Sonata for Violin and Piano*, and the Shostakovich *Seven Romances, Op. 127*. A pre-concert talk by Andrew Warshaw, Associate Professor of Music at Marymount Manhattan College, discussed how vertebrate movement patterns shape musical structures. Renowned violinist and Music of the Spheres Artistic Director Stephanie Chase hosted the evening, as well as performed in the works by Poulenc and Shostakovich, along with James Wilson, Warren Jones and Hope Hudson. For more information about Music of the Spheres, and for a schedule listing its upcoming concerts, please visit the organization's website at www.musicofthespheres.org.

**DICAPO OPERA THEATRE
2007/2008 SEASON**

The National Orchestral Association is pleased to be a supporter of the New York based Dicapò Opera Theatre. Its current season features new productions, as well as its extraordinary programs for children. The company also has a subsidiary that leases sets and costumes to other small opera companies around the country. In addition to providing a new revenue stream, this initiative permits small companies to present operas with dramatically lower production costs. For information about attending Dicapò's reasonably priced opera performances, please visit its website at www.dicapo.com.

**HISTORIC CONNECTICUT
OPERA HOUSE**

The historic Goodspeed Opera House has long been a mainstay of cultural life in East Haddam, Connecticut. This charming opera house has consistently provided opportunities for young American performers and musicians. The National Orchestral Association is proud to be a supporter of Goodspeed. In addition to performances in the Opera House, the organization offers an array of educational and community outreach programs, and maintains The Scherer Library of Musical Theatre. For more information about Goodspeed, please visit www.goodspeed.org.

**NEW JERSEY SCHOOL PROGRAM
CONTINUES BARZIN OUTREACH TRADITION**

Maestro Leon Barzin, founding musical director of the National Orchestral Association, was an early advocate for bringing classical music and musicians to public schools. Starting in the 1940s, Maestro Barzin created an NOA educational outreach program designed to develop future audiences for classical music. The initiative was soon expanded into an annual series of tours to Delaware and other east coast schools for students in the fifth to seventh grades. The small ensembles that Barzin brought to the schools not only performed, but provided demonstrations of the instruments. Maestro Barzin believed that it was important for the children to experience music close up, and would invite them to surround the musicians and give them the opportunity to touch the instruments.



Maestro Barzin and students, circa 1947

The NOA is pleased to be providing support for a similar outreach program being undertaken by the Ketler Elementary School in Westwood, New Jersey. The school will be bringing a group of musicians to the school to expose young people to classical music and provide interaction with the musicians, much like the original outreach programs of Maestro Barzin. We would like to commend Principal Lisa Shifrin for her efforts to expose young people to classical music.

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. The 2007/2008 season includes 20 concerts featuring music of the classical and romantic eras, with short trips to enjoyable contemporary music. For more information about the organization's concerts, please call (212) 543-0475.

SONYC – STRING ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK CITY

The National Orchestral Association was pleased to be instrumental in the formation of the String Orchestra of New York City, a conductorless chamber ensemble. Since its inception in 1999, SONYC has been performing a wide range of works, from string orchestra standards to premiering works by new composers from around the world. We are delighted that SONYC's long-awaited CD, entitled "first takes" has finally been released by Albany Records, and features works by Chris Theofanidis, Paul Moravec, Lisa Bielawa, and Michael Gatonska. The CD demonstrates the virtuosity of this extraordinary group of players, and the CD is an exciting experience. To obtain more information about SONYC and the new recording, please visit www.sonyc.org.

MUSIC IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bringing classical music performance and instruction to rural communities is always a challenge, but the Mountain Top Music Center is continuing to provide 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.