

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. 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.

This year the NOA was pleased to continue its many exciting initiatives, including the conducting workshop held at West Chester University. Building on the success of this workshop and the previous NOA workshop held at the Cleveland Institute of Music, our organization is helping to cultivate the next generation of conductors. We are also gratified to continue partnering with many fine organizations that are working to foster an appreciation of classical music by performing for underserved audiences.

Time and again throughout its history, the NOA has been a leader in turning obstacles into opportunities. Founded in 1930, the NOA initiated a series of highly-acclaimed low-priced concerts that packed Carnegie Hall and reached a wider audience through radio. Even now, the NOA is reaching wider audiences by supporting organizations that present low-priced concerts. The NOA's success reflects the same indomitable spirit of America that has helped us overcome every challenge, to emerge stronger, wiser and more optimistic. At this time of year, we give thanks for so many things, but most of all for all of you who make our work possible and who share our vision for the future. Thank you so much for your support.

Matthew J. Trachtenberg
President

THE CONDUCTORS GUILD AND THE NOA SPONSOR CONDUCTING WORKSHOP

A very successful conducting workshop featuring the technique of Maestro Leon Barzin, co-sponsored by the Conductors Guild and the National Orchestral Association, was held October 19-22, 2008, at West Chester University College of Visual and Performing Arts. The workshop attracted conductors from all over the country, and as far away as Singapore. Conference leaders were two Barzin protégés, Dr. Jacques Voois and Maestra Patricia Handy. Dr. Voois is Music Director and Conductor of the Chester County Pops Orchestra, and a retired professor of West Chester University School of Music, and Maestra Patricia Handy, Associate Conductor of the Greenwich Symphony (Connecticut) and Conductor Laureate of the Goliard Chorale and Chamber Orchestra of New York. Also leading were Maestro Leonard Atherton, Professor of Music at Ball State University, as well as faculty members from the WCU School of Music, including Assistant Professors Ovidiu Marinescu, Ralph Sorrentino and Sylvia Ahranjian. The legendary Jonathan Sternberg, regarded by many as one of the most distinguished conductors appearing on the international podium, provided the attendees with conducting insights gleaned from his long and distinguished career as a conductor of some of the world's great orchestras. A long list of his recordings made in Vienna, Salzburg, Paris and Zürich has also made him a familiar name to discophiles internationally.



Maestro Leon Barzin

The workshop provided invaluable assistance in understanding and mastering the Barzin technique. Each participant had an opportunity to conduct a wide range of repertoire, including works by such composers as Mozart, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn and Turina. In addition to conducting the WCU Symphony Orchestra, participants also received instruction in chamber orchestra repertoire, percussion for conductors, pops orchestra programming, and score study, among others. During the course of each conducting session, the participants received invaluable pointers from the instructors, and with sessions being videotaped, the participants were better able to analyze their work.

A luncheon hosted by College of Visual and Performing Arts President Timothy Blair featured a talk by NOA President Matthew Trachtenberg, who spoke about the career of NOA founding conductor Maestro Leon Barzin. Mr. Trachtenberg also provided an overview of the NOA's history and a description of the Association's current initiatives, including the sponsorship of conducting workshops. NOA Directors Debra Greenfield and Grace Vance described the conducting workshop as an important resource for helping conductors refine their technique, and the NOA was delighted to have had the opportunity to partner with the Conductors Guild and WCU in sponsoring this extraordinary conducting event.

NOA SUPPORTS YOUNG PIANIST INITIATIVE

NOA Director David Levitman praised the Stecher & Horowitz Foundation's commitment to fostering the next generation of talented young pianists to help sustain and preserve the essence of our cultural life. He noted that this organization directly serves pianists ages 14-22 by identifying emerging talent through its annual New York Piano Competition. The NOA is pleased to salute this fine organization in its efforts to provide mentoring, career guidance, artistic development and performance opportunities for young artists. For more information about future performances by the New York Piano Competition winners, please visit www.nypianocomp.org.

STRING ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK CITY (SONYC)

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. Pulitzer Prize winning composers Paul Moravec and Aaron Jay Kernis have stated that "SONYC is a composer's dream" (Moravec), and "is opening up the world again for the audience to become more emotionally and experientially involved" (Kernis). SONYC's 2008-2009 season of music includes performances in New York, Washington, Connecticut, Alabama, Michigan, Oklahoma, and California. For information about SONYC, visit www.sonyc.org.

FROM THE NOA ARCHIVE



Maestro Leon Barzin
conducts rehearsal for "Adventure in Ballet"
with NOA Orchestra, 1945

DANCE COMPANY SUPPORT

In January, the NOA continued its support for Katrina O'Brien & Co., a Massachusetts-based ensemble modern dance company. NOA Director Reka Souwapawong noted that this exciting new company is providing important opportunities for young American performers.

UTAH INITIATIVES

The NOA is delighted to be continuing its work in Utah. NOA Directors Ralph Gates and Judy Jackson have worked tirelessly to support organizations that enrich the cultural life in Utah. At their recommendation, 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 a wide range of performances at the Eccles Center, which has become Park City's premier performing venue. The NOA was also pleased to continue its support for a music scholarship at Utah Valley State College in memory of the NOA's late Chairman, Frances J. Kennedy. Fran's leadership, wisdom and energy were an inspiration to all, and the NOA contribution is a fitting tribute to her commitment to providing scholarship assistance to talented young musicians.

ARS ANTIQUA

The NOA is pleased to be providing support for a unique American music organization devoted to performances of 17th and 18th Century music on historical instruments. NOA Director Reka Souwapawong noted that these critically acclaimed performances are enhanced by guest speakers and illustrated program books, which help place the music in the context of Baroque art and social history. At its November 8th performance, this organization presented "An Evening at Zimmerman's Coffee House" featuring Bach's Leipzig Chamber Music. For more information about upcoming concerts by this unique organization, please visit www.ars-antiqua.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 and performances throughout the region. Mr. Levitman stressed the importance of providing educational opportunities and performance venues in traditionally underserved rural communities. For more information, please visit www.mountaintopmusic.org.

MUSIC OF THE SPHERES SOCIETY TO PERFORM IN DALLAS

The NOA is pleased to continue its support for the Music of the Spheres Society. NOA Director David Levitman cites the organization's ability to present performances of consistently high quality that engage audiences of all ages. Music of the Spheres promotes and develops new audiences for classical music through innovative programs of chamber music concerts, lectures, and educational workshops that illuminate music's historical, philosophical, and scientific foundations. Performances feature renowned musicians and scholars, and are presented in the greater New York City area and throughout the United States. On December 1st, the Society will be performing a program entitled "Festive Music for a Winter's Eve" at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The concert will feature works by Triemer, Boccherini, Caldara, Tartini and Handel, performed by a group of distinguished American musicians. For more information about Music of the Spheres and its upcoming concerts, please visit the organization's website at www.musicofthespheres.org.

CONCERTS IN THE HEIGHTS

Concerts in the Heights is continuing its extraordinary programs, which 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. For information about the current 10 month season for 2008/2009, and upcoming programs, repertoire, as well as the organization's music education project for middle-school students, please visit www.concertsintheheights.org.