

Notes

the newsletter of

The National Orchestral Association

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE NOA

The National Orchestral Association is deeply grateful to our many donors and volunteers. At this time of year, when we give thanks for so many things, the NOA would like to acknowledge the hard work of our tireless volunteers and the extraordinary generosity of our many supporters from around the country. Your support is 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.

In the current economic environment, it is important for organizations to demonstrate their worthiness of support. The NOA is proud of its record of achievement and efficient operations that dates back to the Great Depression. By resisting the many temptations to grow overhead or add unnecessary staff, the NOA has been able to maintain the quality of its programs by leveraging the dynamic commitment of its many volunteers. We encourage this spirit of thrift in the organizations that we support.

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

NOA ARCHIVES PROVIDE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE

The National Orchestral Association's archives continue to be a valuable resource for scholars and musical enthusiasts from around the world. Each year the National Orchestral Association receives inquiries from musicians and educators about NOA performances. Executive Director Eric Kuttner noted that "we receive requests for information from around the world, most recently receiving an inquiry from a professor in Germany about certain NOA concerts held in 1939 and 1945." During its 79 years, the National Orchestral Association has been pleased to underwrite numerous concerts, and concerts by the NOA orchestra hold a unique place in the audio legacy of American orchestras, with a number of important world premieres. To preserve and protect the Association's recorded legacy, the entire catalogue of NOA performances is safeguarded at the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound at Lincoln Center. Scholars and students may go to Lincoln Center to hear the recordings, and may obtain copies of the recordings for personal use from Lincoln Center with the prior written consent of the National Orchestral Association. The NOA is most grateful to Lincoln Center for its invaluable assistance in acting as custodian for an incredible array of performances that underscore the diversity of programming and achievements of NOA performers over the years.

CONDUCTOR TRAINING AT FLORIDA STATE

The National Orchestral Association is pleased to be of assistance to the orchestral conducting program at The College of Music at Florida State University. We are so pleased that The College of Music at FSU will be hosting Professor Voois' conducting training residency. The NOA is delighted to be partnering with FSU in making Professor Voois available to hold conducting workshops on behalf of the NOA to train aspiring conductors in the techniques of the Association's founding musical director and conductor, Maestro Leon Barzin. Over the years, the National Orchestral Association has partnered with other distinguished organizations, such as the Conductors Guild, to provide training for America's next generation of classical conductors.

Last year, the NOA sponsored a conducting workshop featuring the technique of Maestro Leon Barzin, co-sponsored by the Conductors Guild. The workshop was held at West Chester University College of Visual and Performing Arts, and attracted conductors from all over the country, and as far away as Singapore. The workshop provided invaluable assistance in understanding and mastering the Barzin conducting technique. NOA director Grace Vance described the conducting workshops as "a great resource for upcoming conductors that fosters exposure to the teachings of NOA founding conductor Maestro Leon Barzin."



Maestro Leon Barzin

NOA director Debra Greenfield observed that "Barzin's legendary technique exemplifies a conducting style that both comprehends the intellectual challenges inherent in conducting, as well as the physical means of controlling and shaping the sound of an orchestra." The NOA is delighted to have the opportunity to partner with such distinguished organizations as the Conductors Guild, West Chester University and Florida State University.

NOA SALUTES 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 16-21 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 this fine organization, please visit www.stecherandhorowitz.org.

MUSIC OF THE SPHERES SOCIETY

The NOA is pleased to continue its support for the Music of the Spheres Society. The organization is continuing its series of highly-acclaimed chamber music concerts, featuring many world-renowned soloists. The first concert of their new season was held on October 16th, in a program entitled "Flying Fingers Virtuoso String Quintets." The next concert will be held on February 26th in a program entitled "Sound Travels Through Vienna," with works by Krenek, Kreisler, Webern, Brahms, Schubert and Mozart. For more information, please visit the Society's website at www.musicofthespheres.org.

FROM THE NOA ARCHIVE



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

DANCE COMPANY SUPPORT

The NOA is pleased to continue 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, and reflects the spirit of NOA founding conductor Maestro Leon Barzin, who was a co-founder of the New York City Ballet. For more information about this exciting company, please visit www.katrinaobrien.com.

UTAH VALLEY STATE COLLEGE MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The National Orchestral Association is delighted to provide support for a music scholarship at Utah Valley State College. This annual scholarship provides financial support for a young music student at the University, and has been made each year in memory of the National Orchestral Association's beloved former Chairman, Frances Kennedy. NOA director Judy Jackson noted that "this annual scholarship is not only a fitting tribute to the memory of Fran Kennedy, but provides help for a worthy student during a challenging economic environment for many of our institutions of higher learning." Director Ralph Gates recalled Maestro Leon Barzin's visit to Utah, and how much of an inspiration both he and Fran were to the young students: "Fran believed in the importance of bridging musical generations. Her decision to invite Maestro Barzin to Utah brought together young music students and a venerable maestro approaching his 97th birthday."

MUSIC IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Mountain Top Music Center is continuing its work as the local cultural center for residents of northwestern New Hampshire. Bringing classical music performance and instruction to rural communities is always a challenge, but Mountain Top has proved to be an invaluable resource for the local communities it serves. 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.

LYRIC CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY'S NEW SEASON

The Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York recently began its 2009-2010 music series. The eight concert series began on Wednesday, November 11th, with a concert featuring principal players from the New York Philharmonic in works by Bach, Martinu and Beethoven. Lyric's December 9th Holiday Concert featured a work by Daniel Schnyder entitled "Euphoria" (the story of Sarah, Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac and Hagar). Later concerts will feature fascinating evenings of music, including selected lieder by Robert Schumann arranged for piano and saxophone, an evening celebrating the 200th anniversary of Frederic Chopin, an evening of selected songs by Chinese and western composers, and a concert featuring works by Fanny Mendelssohn and others, with a book party honoring the release of Dr. Larry Todd's new biography of Fanny Mendelssohn. The season will conclude in June 2010 with a program entitled CHAMZZ: Classics for The 21st Century, celebrating the music of Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman. The National Orchestral Association is delighted to be continuing its support for this unique organization led by Artistic Director Dr. Joan Kretschmer. For more information about Lyric, please visit www.lyricny.org.

CONCERTS IN THE HEIGHTS

Concerts in the Heights is continuing its extraordinary programs, bringing classical music concerts to the underserved Washington Heights community of New York City. The company, founded by violinist Monica Bauchwitz, presents monthly chamber music concerts designed to expose neighborhood residents to quality music they might not otherwise have access to, helping to develop new audiences for the art form. Programs range from classical repertoire to contemporary works by living composers. They are interactive, with discussions and opportunities for questions before the concerts, followed by informal post-concert receptions open to all attendees. The next concerts on January 13th and 14th will feature vocal selections from works by Handel, Villa-Lobos and others. The February concert will feature oboist Gerard Reuter with Baroque, Classical and Romantic gems by Telemann, Possinger and Rheinberger. For more information about the current 10 month season for 2009/2010, and upcoming programs, repertoire, as well as the organization's music education project for middle-school students, please visit www.concertsintheheights.org.